



DeVos defends plan to eliminate Special Olympics funding

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Wednesday defended a proposal to eliminate funding for the Special Olympics, pushing back against a storm of criticism from athletes, celebrities and politicians who rallied to support the organization.

DeVos became a target on social media after Democrats slammed her plan to remove the group's funding as part of nearly \$7 billion in budget cuts for next year. The Special Olympics received \$17.6 million from the Education Department this year, roughly 10 percent of its overall revenue. In a statement responding to criticism, DeVos said she "loves" the organization's work and has "personally supported its mission." But she also noted that it's a private nonprofit that raises \$100 million a year on its own. Ultimately, she argued, her agency can't afford to continue backing it. "There are dozens of worthy nonprofits that support students and adults with disabilities that don't get a dime of federal grant money," she said. "Given our current budget realities, the federal government cannot fund every worthy program, particularly ones



Education Secretary Betsy DeVos arrives for a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

that enjoy robust support from private donations." Special Olympics Chairman Tim Shriver on Wednesday pushed back against the proposed cut. "This is not the old Special Olympics, it's not my mom's Special Olympics in some

ways," he said on MSNBC. "This is a new Special Olympics. We are actively engaged in the educational purposes that the country has articulated at the federal level." The Trump administration tried to eliminate Special

Olympics funding in its previous budget proposal, too, but Congress ultimately increased funding for the group. Lawmakers indicated that the latest attempt will also fail. "Our Department of Education appropriations bill will not cut

funding for the program," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., chairman of the Senate subcommittee over the education budget. Blunt said he's a "longtime supporter" of the group and recently attended its World Games.

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FAA defends its reliance on aircraft makers to certify jets

By TOM KRISHER, DAVID KOENIG and MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under fire from lawmakers on Capitol Hill over the two deadly Boeing crashes, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday defended the agency's practice of relying on aircraft makers to help certify their own planes for flight.

Acting FAA Administrator Daniel Elwell said the strategy has "consistently produced safe aircraft designs for decades." And he said the agency would need 10,000 more employees and an additional \$1.8 billion a year to do all the work now done by designated employees of the companies it regulates. Under the self-certifying program, these employees perform tests and inspections needed to win safety approvals, with the FAA overseeing their work. The approach is credited with holding down government costs and speeding the roll-out of new models.



People work on the Boeing 737 MAX 8 assembly line during a brief media tour in Boeing's 737 assembly facility, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

But in the wake of disasters involving Boeing's new 737 Max jetliner in Indonesia and Ethiopia, that practice has been seized on as evidence of an overly cozy relationship between the FAA and the industry.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said at a Senate subcommittee hearing that delegating safety work to the companies puts "the

fox in charge of the hen-house."

"The fact is that the FAA decided to do safety on the cheap, which is neither safe nor cheap," Blumenthal said. He vowed to introduce legislation to change the system.

At the same hearing, the Transportation Department's inspector general, Calvin Scovel III, said the

FAA plans to significantly revamp its oversight of aircraft development by July. But the department gave no indication it intends to abandon the collaborative approach.

Scovel said the changes would include new ways to evaluate training and self-audits by aerospace companies but offered little other detail.

Boeing said the process by which it designs, develops and tests planes has led to safer and safer air travel, and it sees no need for an overhaul.

The FAA and the industry say that deputizing private employees to do safety-related tasks is vindicated by the nation's safety record — one passenger accident death in the U.S. in the last 10 years and millions of flights. Elwell said the approach is "part of the fabric of what we have used to become as safe as we are today."

The Max, featuring bigger, more efficient engines, went into service in 2017. The software in a new automated system that can push the plane's nose down to prevent an aerodynamic stall is suspected of playing a role in the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet in Indonesia and has also come scrutiny in the March 10 plunge of an Ethiopian Airlines Max. In all, 346 people died.

The plane was grounded around the world this

month.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who chaired the hearing, said the "close relationship between industry and regulators" threatens to erode the confidence of the flying public.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who oversees the FAA, has asked Scovel to look into the way the agency certified the Max as airworthy. Also, the Justice Department is investigating possible criminal violations involving the airliner's certification.

In addition, the Transportation Department watchdog plans to examine the widespread use of automated systems to fly airplanes and whether pilots are being adequately trained for when such features fail.

Meanwhile, Boeing invited about 200 pilots from several airlines to its Seattle-area facility to explain to them upcoming changes to the Max's flight-control system. The company said pilots will be required to take a computer-based training course with about 30 minutes on the flight-control software before they can fly the Max. It includes a knowledge test at the end. Boeing will also put information about the software in flight-crew manuals.

Boeing's vice president of airplane development, Mike Sinnett, repeated Boeing's confidence in the safety of the plane.

"We are working with customers and regulators around the world to restore faith in our industry and also to reaffirm our commitment to safety and to earning the trust of the flying public," Sinnett said.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., questioned whether the FAA is too chummy with airlines and Boeing, a major defense contractor with political power in Washington.

"Changes need to be made in the relationship between this company and its regulator to ensure that the safety of the flying public remains the paramount interest, not the quarterly profits of this company," Udall said. □



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SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Continued from Front

DeVos is expected to present her budget to Blunt's panel Thursday, just days after being grilled over it in the House. Democrats on a House subcommittee asked DeVos how she could cut Special Olympics funding while calling for a \$60 million increase in charter school funding.

"Once again, I still can't understand why you would go after disabled children in your budget. You've zeroed that out. It's appalling," Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., said at the hearing. DeVos told the panel that her department "had to make some difficult decisions," adding that the Special Olympics is best supported by philanthropy.

Following the hearing, Twitter was alight with comments from parents, advocates and celebrities who slammed DeVos and urged her to rethink the proposal. Joe Haden, who plays for the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers and works as an ambassador for the Special Olympics, said he was sickened by the cut. "This is so wrong on so many Levels!" he said on Twitter.

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, called the proposal outrageous. Kasich, who also represented Ohio in the U.S. House, said that when he was on the budget committee, "these types of programs were off limits — for good reason."

Others opposing DeVos included Julie Foudy, former captain of the U.S. women's soccer team, and actress Marlee Matlin, who said the benefits of the Special Olympics are "immeasur-

able."

Some Special Olympics athletes joined in to support the group, including Derek "Tank" Schottle, who posted a video that had been viewed more than 140,000 times by Wednesday.

"Win or lose, we're all winners in our hearts," he said. "What warms peoples' hearts is we're all humans, just like everybody else."

The Special Olympics' 2017 annual report, the latest available on its website, says the group received a total of \$148 million in revenue that year, including \$15.5 million from federal grants. More than three quarters of the group's revenue comes from individual and corporate contributions and other fundraising efforts. DeVos' budget places the Special Olympics funding among 29 programs up for elimination in 2020, arguing that they have achieved their purpose or that they are ineffective, don't meet national needs or are better funded from other sources. The proposal separately calls for \$13.2 billion in federal grants awarded to states for special education, the same amount that was given this year.

In her statement, DeVos said it was "shameful" that the media and members of Congress "spun up falsehoods and fully misrepresented the facts." She drew attention to the \$13.2 billion in state grants, along with an additional \$226 million for grants supporting teacher training and research to help students with disabilities.

"Make no mistake," she added, "we are focused every day on raising ex-

pectations and improving outcomes for infants and toddlers, children and youth with disabilities, and are committed to confronting and addressing anything that stands in the way of their success."

This isn't the first time DeVos has run afoul of disability rights advocates.

Some were stunned by a 2017 Senate hearing in which DeVos, while being questioned about a federal law supporting students with disabilities, said it was "a matter that is best left to the states." When asked if she was familiar with the federal law, she said she "may have confused it."

DeVos again roiled advo-



Education Secretary Betsy DeVos speaks during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

cates last December when she rescinded Obama-era guidance meant to protect racial minorities and students with disabilities

from unwarranted discipline. In making the decision, DeVos said discipline decisions should be left to teachers and schools. □

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Congress could get Mueller report in April, Graham says

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General William Barr has told the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee that he's combing through special counsel Robert Mueller's report, removing classified and other information in hopes of releasing it to Congress in April.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he had dinner the previous evening with Barr, who said he is willing to tes-



President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media as he departs a Senate Republican policy lunch on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

tify before Graham's committee after he sends the report to Congress. Justice

Department officials said Tuesday that more information could be released

in "weeks, not months." Democrats, meanwhile, frowned at the waiting game. Rep. Elijah Cummings, one of six committee chairmen who have demanded the full report by Tuesday, said much about the path forward depends on whether the report backs up Barr's conclusion that Mueller found no evidence that Trump colluded with the Russians to influence the 2016 elections. By Barr's account, Mueller made no finding on whether the president obstructed justice, a question now in Congress' hands.

"The president has now an opportunity for weeks, it sounds like, to do these victory laps," while Democrats wait on key decisions about investigating the administration, Cummings said. Challenges lie ahead for both the Republicans and the Democrats who hope to deny Trump re-election next year. Both parties are readjusting their aims and strategies in the post-probe landscape, pivoting to health care and other issues that are more important for many voters, even with Mueller's full findings still unknown.

Graham said the attorney general is going through the report to take out grand jury material and classified information, neither of which can be publicly disclosed under the law. Barr wants to make sure nothing is released that could compromise national security or intelligence sources and methods, Graham said. He said Barr also told him he wants to check with prosecutors who have cases associated with Mueller's Russia investigation. Mueller had referred cases to other federal courts as part of his probe. Graham later told CNN he

had spoken to President Donald Trump about the Mueller report, who said "just release it." Graham said Trump was unlikely to claim executive privilege on any of the material.

The attorney general released a four-page summary of Mueller's confidential report on Sunday that said the special counsel did not find that Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election. It also said that Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed the federal investigation, instead setting out "evidence on both sides" of the question. Emboldened by the end of the investigation, Trump on Tuesday strode into a high-spirited gathering of Senate Republicans, flanked by party leaders, saying the attorney general's summary of Mueller's report "could not have been better." GOP senators applauded his arrival, and he celebrated what he called his "clean bill of health." He showed an eagerness to move on, Republicans said, specifically to focus anew on repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

At House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's own closed-door caucus meeting Tuesday, she urged rank-and-file Democrats to "be calm" and focus on the policy promises of health care, jobs and oversight of the administration that helped propel them to the House majority last fall.

"Let's just get the goods," Pelosi said. Not that the Democrats are forgetting Russia and the 2016 presidential election. Many Democrats dismiss Barr's four-page summary as inadequate. □

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Judge grants class action status in private prison lawsuit

By TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Shareholders suing private prison operator CoreCivic won class action status Tuesday for their lawsuit claiming the company inflated stock prices by misrepresenting the quality and value of its services.

CoreCivic's public statements to shareholders have said the Nashville, Tennessee-based company provides a high quality service at a lower cost than government-run facilities. The securities fraud suit claims CoreCivic executives knew those statements were false.

According to the suit, the company formerly called Corrections Corporation of America "ran unsafe, low quality prisons that caused multiple deaths and did not save money."

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, CoreCivic has said the shareholder lawsuit is "entirely without merit."

U.S. District Judge Aleta Trauger ruled Tuesday in favor of class action status. She relied in part on internal communications showing that CoreCivic executives knew of serious problems with at least some of their facilities and were privately concerned about losing contracts.

The plaintiffs are led by Amalgamated Bank, which says it lost \$1.2 million when stocks fell after a 2016 U.S. Department of Justice memorandum directed the Bureau of Prisons to phase out contracts with private operators. The memo said private prisons have more

safety and security issues than federally run prisons without significant cost savings.

CoreCivic has pointed out in court filings that the directive was rescinded under the Trump administration, and the company's stock price went on to fully recover. It also has said a similar shareholder lawsuit against private prison operator GEO Group was dismissed by a federal judge in Florida.

The company also has argued that statements boasting of the quality and value of its services were of a generic nature and not fraudulent.

Trauger addressed the issue of the company's statements in her order Tuesday. "CoreCivic and its executives, as might be expected, typically portrayed its services in a positive light to shareholders," the judge wrote. "The statements at issue here, however, frequently went beyond generic puffery to claims that



This Aug. 16, 2018, file photo shows the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in Tutwiler, Miss.

Associated Press

their services were of a high quality, specifically, in the eyes of their government clients."

Meanwhile, executives knew some of those government clients were unhappy with the service CoreCivic provided, Trauger added.

One example Trauger cites is an executive who worried that health care problems might be putting contracts in jeopardy at two facilities and wrote in an email, "this is going to kill us."

Another example she cites: After a federal audit was

less critical than had been expected, an executive wrote, "What I'm shocked over is they totally overlooked the consequences of our staff vacancies. They mentioned staffing at the end but could have been much more critical."

CoreCivic is one of the nation's largest private prison operators. It owns or manages 54 detention facilities with a combined capacity of over 75,000 beds through contracts with federal, state and local governments, according to its website. □

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U.S. will reassign border inspectors as illegal crossings rise



This Tuesday, March 26, 2019, photo shows a border patrol checkpoint, north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, that U.S. immigration authorities have closed and have reassigned agents to repurpose inspection areas to handle an influx of Central Americans arriving at the Mexican border.

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The Trump administration said Wednesday it will temporarily reassign several hundred border inspectors as beleaguered forces already stationed along the U.S.-Mexico border struggle to keep pace with the growing number of migrant families who are showing up at the border in poor health and turning themselves in to agents to request asylum. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said the reassignment of 750 border inspectors would mean longer waits at crossings as the busy Easter holiday nears but that it was necessary to address what he called "an operational crisis." The reassigned officers will process migrants, provide transportation and perform hospital watches for migrants who require medical attention. It is unknown when they will return to their regular duties. "There will be impacts to traffic at the border," McAleenan said at a news conference in El Paso, Texas, which, after years of relative

calm, has quickly emerged as the second-busiest corridor for illegal crossings after Texas' Rio Grande Valley. "There will be a slowdown in the processing of trade. There will be wait times in our pedestrian and passenger vehicle lanes." McAleenan spoke in front of the metal fencing that separates El Paso from Juarez, Mexico, after a delay that followed the apprehension of several migrants who had crossed a shallow spot on the Rio Grande nearby and turned themselves in. Arrests along the Mexican border jumped to 66,450 in February, up 149 percent from a year earlier, while arrests in the Border Patrol's El Paso sector, which stretches across New Mexico and much of West Texas, were about eight times higher than they were a year ago. March is shaping up to be even busier. McAleenan said the agency was on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry during the month, up about 30 percent from February and about double the same period last year. About 55,000

will have arrived as families, including 40,000 children. The commissioner said the border was at "a breaking point," language that is consistent with the administration's portrayal of a state of crisis. President Donald Trump last month declared a national emergency to obtain military funds for construction of his prized border wall. The political polarization continued to play out Wednesday in El Paso as a small group of protesters erected an inflatable caricature of the president and shouted in Spanish "you are not alone" to the migrants being led away. While arrests are still well below highs of the early 2000s, the surge of families and children has tested U.S. authorities. Customs and Border Protection is taking more than 60 migrants to the hospital each day, McAleenan said. In the previous four days, he said infants have had 105-degree fevers, a 2-year-old suffered seizures in the desert and a 40-year-old man suffering organ failure refused surgery.

A few hundred yards from where McAleenan spoke, about 600 migrants were held in a football field-sized pen lined with concertina wire under the shade of a bridge that connects El Paso to Juarez. When reporters arrived, migrants lined the fence and some yelled they were hungry. Minutes later, a catering van delivered ham-and-cheese and picadillo sandwiches. The 750 inspectors will be drawn from offices across the entire U.S. border. They will remain inspectors in name but will assist in border patrol, effectively shifting work hours from ports of entry to detention work. Nationwide, Customs and Border Protection has 23,000 officers working at 328 ports of entry, including at airports around the country. But the agency has had the most trouble recruiting officers to work at southern border, where crossings were understaffed before the current surge of migrant families, largely due to low recruitment and high rates of attrition.

In Arizona, the ports where most of the country's produce comes through have struggled with low staffing, drawing the ire of trade organizations that say it slows down commerce. In El Paso, drivers can wait for hours to cross back to the U.S. The reassignment of border inspectors follows the Border Patrol's unusual move to close all highway checkpoints in its El Paso sector, which stretches across 268 miles (429 kilometers) in Texas and New Mexico. U.S. officials say the checkpoint closures are a temporary measure to handle the increase in families and unaccompanied children entering the country illegally. The orange traffic cones used to divert traffic off Interstate 10 into the canopy-covered border checkpoint west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, now block the entrance, signaling to drivers that they don't have to stop. The Border Patrol operates 34 permanent checkpoints along the entire Mexican border and another 103 "tactical" stops, often cones and signs that appear for brief periods, the Government Accountability Office said in a 2017 report. While checkpoints account for only a sliver of Border Patrol arrests — 2 percent from 2013 to 2016 — they also handled 43 percent of drug busts during that time, according to the report. At a gun range operated by the City of Las Cruces and used by Border Patrol agents, grandmother and Picacho Gun Club volunteer Cindy Pollock said she first noticed the checkpoint closures Thursday. She thought the agents might be off training. When she heard they were reassigned to process migrants, she wasn't surprised. "There's only so many officers and there's nothing they can do," said Pollock, who believes the current wave of migrants draws resources away from anti-crime efforts. "My husband said 'Boy, just think about how many drugs are getting through today.'" □

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Guilty plea to hate crimes in deadly car attack at rally

By DENISE LAVOIE AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)

— In a case that stirred racial tensions across the country, a self-avowed white supremacist pleaded guilty Wednesday to federal hate crime charges in a deadly attack at a white nationalist rally in Virginia, admitting that he intentionally plowed his speeding car into a crowd of anti-racism protesters, killing a woman and injuring dozens.

James Alex Fields Jr. of Maumee, Ohio, pleaded guilty to 29 of 30 federal charges stemming from the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017.

Under a plea agreement, federal prosecutors will not seek the death penalty against Fields and will dismiss the one count that carried death as a possible punishment. The charges he pleaded guilty to call for life in prison under federal sentencing guidelines.

Fields appeared stoic, with his hands folded in front of him for much of the hearing. He repeatedly responded "yes, sir," when U.S. District Judge Michael Urbanski asked him if he was pleading guilty knowingly and voluntarily.

Under a "statement of facts," Fields admitted that he "expressed and promoted" white supremacist ideology through his social media accounts and engaged in white supremacist chants during the rally in Charlottesville. He also admitted driving his car into the ethnically diverse crowd of anti-racism protesters because of their

race, color, religion or national origin.

Urbanski scheduled sentencing for July 3.

Fields, 21, was convicted in December in a Virginia court of first-degree murder and other state charges for killing anti-racism activist Heather Heyer and injuring dozens of others who were protesting against the white nationalists.

The rally drew hundreds of white nationalists to Charlottesville to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of counterprotesters demonstrated against the white nationalists.

President Donald Trump sparked a national uproar when he blamed the violence at the rally on "both sides," a statement critics saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

After Tuesday's hearing, U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen said he hoped the plea agreement would help the victims move on with their lives.

"The defendant's hate-inspired act of domestic terrorism not only devastated Heather Heyer's wonderful family and the 28 peaceful protesters ... but it also left an indelible mark on the city of Charlottesville, our state and our country," Cullen said. Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, said she and Heyer's father agreed they did not want prosecutors to seek the death penalty.

"There's no point in killing him," she said. "It would not bring back Heather."

Cullen said prosecutors had been in talks with Fields' lawyers for months about a potential plea agreement,



This undated file photo provided by the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail shows James Alex Fields Jr.

Associated Press

but did not seek to finalize a deal until U.S. Attorney General William Barr last week authorized him not to seek the death penalty if Fields agreed to plead to 29 counts.

The car attack by Fields came after violent brawling between the two sides prompted police to disband the crowds.

During his state trial, prosecutors said Fields — who described himself on social media as an admirer of Adolf Hitler — drove his car into the crowd because he was angry after witnessing earlier clashes between the white nationalists and the counterprotesters.

The jury rejected a claim by Fields' lawyers that he acted in self-defense because he feared for his life after witnessing the earlier violence.

During the plea hearing Wednesday, Fields — responding to questions from the judge — said he has been treated for mental health issues since he was 6. He said he is currently on medication for bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, schizoid disorder, explosive onset disorder and ADHD. More than 30 people were hurt in the car attack. Some who received life-altering injuries described them in anguished detail during the

state trial.

Jurors in Fields' state trial recommended a life sentence plus 419 years, although a judge still has to decide on the punishment. Sentencing is scheduled for July 15. A reporter asked Bro if she thought her daughter's death had served some purpose, such as opening a discussion of race relations. She answered: "Sadly, it took a white girl dying before anyone paid attention to civil rights around here ... Heather's death is at least a catalyst for change."

Bro said she wouldn't have chosen that catalyst and added, "I wish we would have woken up sooner." □

Prime Minister May says she'll step down if Brexit deal OK'd

By JILL LAWLESS
DANICA KIRKA

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May offered up her job in exchange for her Brexit deal Wednesday, telling colleagues she would quit within weeks if the agreement was passed and Britain left the European Union. May's dramatic concession that "there is a desire for a new approach - and new leadership" was a last-ditch effort to bring enough reluctant colleagues on board to push her twice-rejected EU divorce deal over the line.

It looked like it might not be enough, as a key Northern Ireland party said it would not be supporting the deal. May's announcement came as lawmakers held an inconclusive series of votes on alternatives to her unpopular deal. It was the first step in an attempt by Parliament to break the Brexit deadlock and stop the country from tumbling out of the bloc within weeks with no exit plan in place. May has been under mounting pressure from pro-Brexit members of her Conservative Party to quit. Many Brexiteers accuse her of negotiating a bad divorce deal that leaves Britain too closely tied to the bloc after it leaves.

Several have said they would support the withdrawal deal if another leader took charge of the next stage of negotiations, which will determine Britain's future relations with the EU.

In a packed meeting of Conservative legislators described by participants as "somber," May finally conceded she would have to go, although she did not set a departure date.

"I am prepared to leave this job earlier than I intended in order to do what is right for our country and our party," she said, according to a transcript released by her office.

Anti-EU lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg, who has clashed with May throughout the Brexit process, said she had been "very clear" that if Britain leaves the EU



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves the Houses of Parliament, on the day that MPs will be asked to consider a range of alternative Brexit options after Parliament seized control of the Commons agenda to force a series of "indicative votes", Wednesday evening March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

as foreseen on May 22, she will quit soon after.

He said the prime minister had been "very dignified."

"She put her case well, and reiterated that she had done her duty," he said.

It was unclear whether May's offer to resign would be enough to win backing for her deal, which was defeated by 230 votes in January and by 149 votes earlier this month.

High-profile Brexiteer Boris Johnson announced soon after May's statement that he would support the agreement, which he has previously called a "humiliation." Johnson is a likely contender to replace May as prime minister.

But other hard-liners said they would continue to reject the deal, and Northern Ireland's small but influential Democratic Unionist Party refused to budge in its opposition to the deal.

The DUP's support was seen as key to persuading other Brexiteers to back the deal. But the staunchly pro-British party fears a provision designed to keep an open border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland after Brexit would weaken the bonds between Northern Ireland

and the rest of the U.K.

"We cannot sign up to something that would damage the Union," DUP leader Arlene Foster told Sky News.

Asked if the party might abstain instead, DUP lawmaker Nigel Dodds tweeted: "The DUP do not abstain on the Union."

Two years ago, Britain triggered a countdown to departure from the EU that ended Friday, March 29, 2019. With that date approaching and no Brexit deal approved by Britain, the EU last week granted a delay. It said that if Parliament approves the proposed divorce deal this week, the U.K. will leave the EU on May 22. If not, the government has until April 12 to tell the 27 remaining EU countries what it plans to do: leave without a deal, cancel Brexit or propose a radically new path.

With May clinging to her

Plan A — getting her deal approved — lawmakers this week seized control of the parliamentary timetable for debate and votes Wednesday on a range of Brexit alternatives.

The results underscored the divisions in Parliament, and the country, over Brexit. None of the eight plans received a majority of votes. The most popular were a proposal to remain in a customs union with the bloc, which was defeated 272-264, and a call to hold a public referendum on any divorce deal, which fell by 295 votes to 268. Both ideas got more support than the 242 votes secured by May's deal earlier this month.

A call to leave the EU without a deal was supported by 160 lawmakers and opposed by 400.

The plan is for the most popular ideas to move to a second vote Monday to find an option that can

command a majority. Parliament would then instruct the government to negotiate it with the EU.

May has said she will consider the outcome of the votes, although she has refused to be bound by the result.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay urged lawmakers to back May's deal, saying the ambiguous result "demonstrates that there are no easy options here."

Barclay said he had introduced a motion to have Parliament meet Friday if needed for a vote on May's agreement, but it remained unclear whether it would go ahead. House of Commons Speaker John Bercow said he would not accept another vote on the twice-rejected deal unless substantial changes were made.

Wednesday's votes produced inconclusive results, but could push Britain in the direction of a softer Brexit that keeps Britain closely tied economically to the EU.

That would probably require the U.K. to seek a longer delay, although that would mean participating in May 23-26 European Parliament elections.

Many EU officials are keen to avoid the messy participation of a departing member state.

But the chief of the European Council told European lawmakers that the EU should let Britain take part if the country indicated it planned to change course on Brexit. Donald Tusk said the bloc could not "betray" the millions of Britons who want to stay in the EU.

"They may feel they are not sufficiently represented by the U.K. Parliament but they must feel that they are represented by you in this chamber. Because they are Europeans," Tusk said. □



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Ukraine's ultra-right increasingly visible as election nears

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — As Ukraine's presidential election draws near, its ultranationalist groups are becoming increasingly visible, posing a dilemma for the West. Thousands of far-right activists marched to incumbent President Petro Poroshenko's administration headquarters earlier this month, chanting about alleged corruption and throwing funeral-style bouquets and toy pigs to symbolize the embezzlement of state funds. Ultranationalists have also gone to campaign rallies where they fight with police and heckle Poroshenko, who is running for a second five-year term in the March 31 presidential election. And earlier this month, the ambassadors of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations sent a letter to the Interior Ministry voicing concern about the ultra-right's assertive posturing ahead of Sunday's presidential vote.

The protests reflect the growing presence of far-right groups in Ukraine and their power in shaping the nation's political agenda, leaving the West in a quandary. On the one hand, the ultranationalists have played a key role in fighting Russia-backed separatist rebels in the east and are now challenging government corruption. On the other, they are pushing with increasing boldness for changes that go against traditional democratic ideals.

In a series of violent actions that underline their strength, right-wing radi-



In this April 21, 2018 photo, members of the nationalist group Sokil, the youth wing of the Svoboda party, chant slogans and light flares during a concert in Kiev, Ukraine.

Associated Press

cals in recent years have assaulted gatherings by LGBT and women's rights activists, attacked Roma encampments around the country, derailed a lecture on the history of the Holocaust and brawled with pro-Russia veterans. The ultra-right groups also have a strict, military-style structure, and many of their members have battlefield experience from years of fighting in the east. While the far-right groups have so far failed to unite behind a single presidential candidate, they have gained growing clout, with the government reluctant to challenge them. Andriy Biletsky, the leader of the National Corps, one of the most visible ultra-right groups, predicted that the nationalists "will become the backbone of civil de-

fense in Ukraine."

Andriy Yermolayev, the head of the New Ukraine independent thinktank, said the government in the past had turned a blind eye to the rise of nationalist groups, using them as a scare tactic. He added that now the ultra-right has turned on the authorities.

"The well-organized and aggressive nationalism in Ukraine is a child of the government," Yermolayev said. "The government has lost control over radical nationalists. Poroshenko has lost that game."

The government has also been beset by allegations of corruption, after a journalistic investigation linked Poroshenko's top associate and an arms factory he controls to alleged embezzlement in the defense sector. The president de-

nied any wrongdoing and ordered an official probe into the claims.

The country's ultranationalist groups came to the fore in 2014, when they spearheaded massive street protests that led to the ouster of Russia-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich. Russia responded by annexing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and backing separatists in the east, moves that drew Western sanctions. Thousands of Ukrainian nationalists then headed to the east, forming volunteer battalions that served as a vanguard for the Ukrainian forces in the rebel regions. Since then, the influence of nationalist groups has steadily grown, driven by public dismay over the country's economic woes and rampant corruption. Mostly teenage members

of the ultra-right groups have followed the guidance of war veterans, practicing martial arts and learning how to handle weapons. The number of ultra-nationalists is estimated at about 10,000, and they can quickly take thousands to the streets and resort to violence.

"They have undergone organizational, military and ideological training," Yermolayev said. "They are strongly motivated and active."

Torch-bearing ultra-right activists regularly march to the beat of drums across the downtown Ukrainian capital, chanting "Death to Traitors of Ukraine!" During one scuffle at the memorial to a Red Army general killed in WW II, an elderly woman approached a group of radical nationalists shouting "Hang the Russians!" and defied them, saying: "I'm Russian, hang me!" One of the right-wingers, Kiryl Nedin, pushed her back and was briefly detained for resisting police.

At one demonstration, Yevhen Karas, the leader of C14, a highly visible nationalist group, boasted of the growing power of the ultra-right.

"Of all the political parties in Ukraine, I think, no one (except us) can gather so many people, who sincerely and regularly will come to protests and actions," he said. International human rights groups have strongly criticized the Ukrainian government for failing to track down and punish those responsible for the acts of violence and intimidation. □

Egyptian mediators rush to Gaza Strip as cease-fire holds

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Egyptian mediators rushed to the Gaza Strip on Wednesday and Hamas' supreme leader emerged from his hideout as an unofficial cease-fire between Israel and the Islamic militant group appeared to take hold.

The Egyptian delegation sought to cement the truce that ended two days of heavy fighting between the bitter enemies. They face a key test on Saturday, when Hamas is planning a mass demonstration to mark the one-year anniversary of weekly protests along the Israeli border.

In a sign that both sides had stepped back from a major conflagration, Hamas' supreme leader Ismail Haniyeh made his first public appearance since violence with Israel erupted earlier this week. During times of fighting, Hamas



Hamas' supreme leader Ismail Haniyeh, center right, tours destroyed buildings, in Gaza City, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

leaders typically go underground, fearing assassination by Israel. Standing before the rub-

ble of his Gaza City office, which was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike on Monday, he declared that "the Israeli

occupation got the message." Haniyeh urged Palestinians to come out in force to the

Saturday demonstration. The Israeli military bolstered its forces along the Gaza frontier in advance.

Hamas has staged the protests in hopes of pressuring Israel and Egypt to ease a crippling blockade. The protests, however, have yielded few gains, and nearly 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire.

Israel accuses Hamas of using the demonstrations as cover for attacks, and says it is defending its border against crowds that have hurled flaming tires, grenades and other explosives at troops. But the military has come under heavy international criticism for using disproportionate force against large numbers of unarmed protesters.

Palestinian media reported that the Egyptian mediators would offer Hamas economic incentives in exchange for its commitment to end the protests. □

Save The Children: 7 killed in airstrike on Yemen hospital

By EDITH M. LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

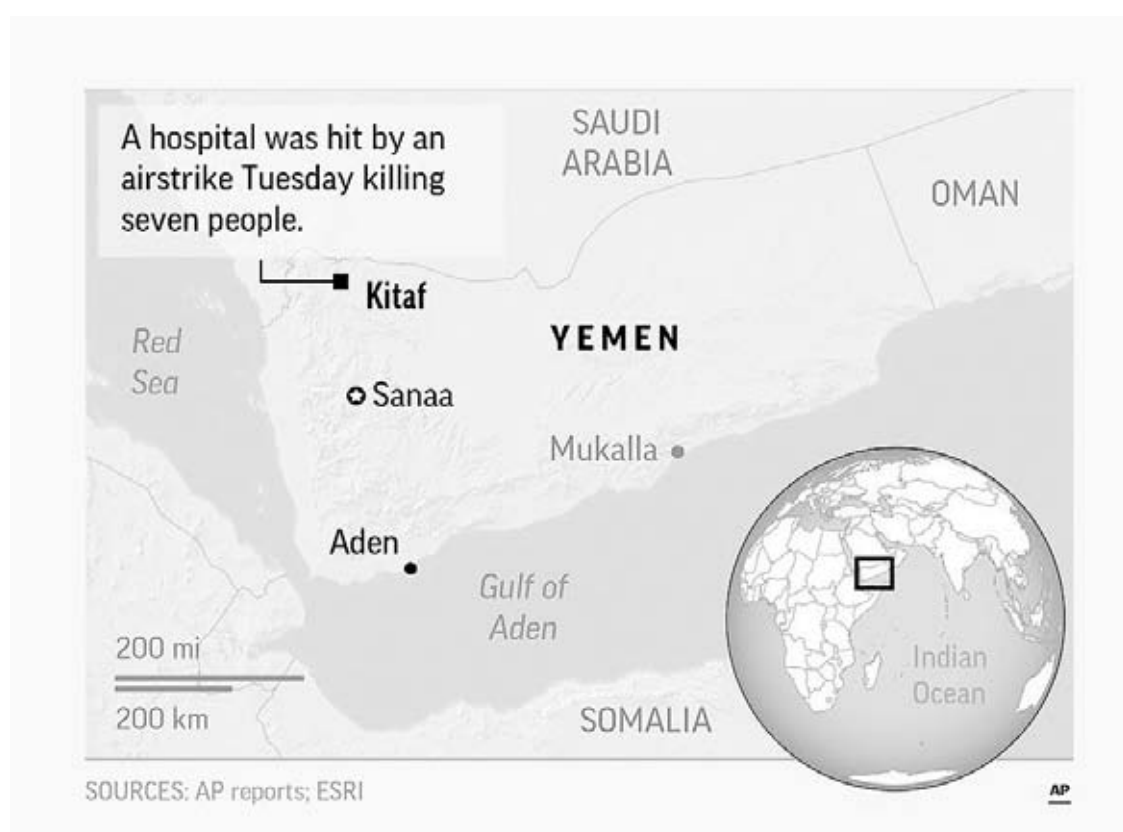
— A hospital in a rural area of northwest Yemen was hit by an airstrike Tuesday killing seven people and wounding eight others, Save the Children said.

The international aid organization, which supports the hospital, said in a statement sent to the Associated Press that four of those killed were children and two adults are unaccounted for.

Save The Children said a missile struck a petrol station near the entrance to Kitaf rural hospital, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the city of Saada at 9:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday.

"The missile was said to have landed within 50 meters of the facility's main building," it said.

The organization said the hospital had been open for half an hour and many patients and staff were arriving on a busy morning. Among the dead were a health worker and the worker's two children and a security guard, it said.



Graphic corrects Katif to Kitaf; a hospital in a rural area of northwest Yemen was hit by an airstrike Tuesday.

Associated Press

Save the Children, which reported earlier this week that 37 Yemeni children a month had been killed or injured by foreign bombs in the last year, demanded an urgent investigation into

the attack. Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the organization's chief executive, said: "We are shocked and appalled by this outrageous attack." "Innocent children and

health workers have lost their lives in what appears to be an indiscriminate attack on a hospital in a densely populated civilian area," she said. "Attacks like these are a breach of inter-

national law."

Thorning-Schmidt said the hospital is one of many Save the Children supports in Yemen, "but time after time, we see a complete disregard by all warring parties in Yemen for the basic rules of war."

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by Iranian-backed Houthi Shiite rebels, who toppled the government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

A Saudi-led coalition allied with Hadi's internationally recognized government has been fighting the Houthis since 2015.

Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have fired long-range missiles into Saudi Arabia and targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

The fighting in the Arab world's poorest country has killed thousands of civilians, left millions suffering from food and medical shortages, and pushed the country to the brink of famine. □



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China defends Tibet policies, bashes exile government

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese officials responsible for Tibet praised development in the Himalayan region in the 60 years since the suppression of an uprising against Beijing's rule.

The remarks Wednesday and an accompanying report by China's Cabinet follow a disclosure from the U.S. this week that American diplomats and officials have been impeded on visits to the region and journalists curbed from making independent assessments of people's lives there.

Tibet's executive vice governor Norbu Dondrup reviewed gains in the economy, health care and education since 1959 and castigated the self-declared government-in-exile established by Buddhist leader the Dalai Lama as illegitimate. The now-83-year-old Dalai Lama fled to India after the uprising was suppressed.

Dondrup denied Tibet's traditional culture and religion were being suppressed but said China would act



Tibet Executive vice governor Norbu Dondrup speaks during a press conference at the State Council Information Office in Beijing, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

against "foreign intervention." He also denied there was any significant support for Tibet as a separate political entity saying, "The issue of Tibetan independence does not exist."

China insists Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans

say they were essentially independent before the People's Liberation Army's battled its way into the Himalayan region in 1950.

Smothering security appears to largely be keeping the peace, but since 2009, more than 150 Tibetan monks, nuns and laypeople

have set themselves on fire in protests against Chinese rule. Such acts appear to have subsided, but the travel ban on foreign media and rights groups make it impossible to confirm reported self-immolations or conditions in Tibetan Buddhist religious institutions

that have long been hotbeds of anti-government sentiment.

Despite China's travel restrictions in Tibet, Dondrup repeatedly emphasized that journalists must travel to the region to see for themselves the conditions there.

The U.S. State Department issued a report on Monday saying China's government "systematically impeded travel" to Tibet and Tibetan areas outside the official Tibetan Autonomous Region for U.S. diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists in 2018.

Attempts to visit Tibet by diplomats, including the U.S. ambassador, are frequently rebuffed, and in its report, the State Department said China denied five of nine requests made by U.S. officials last year. On the visits that were approved, Chinese security personnel followed the diplomats closely and blocked access to certain areas even outside the Tibetan Autonomous Region, the report said. □

Court orders Russian ex-minister jailed for 2 months

MOSCOW (AP) — A former Russian Cabinet member was ordered Wednesday to stay behind bars on charges of embezzling \$62 million.

The Basmany District Court ordered Mikhail Abyzov be kept in custody for two months while an investigation continues.

Abyzov is accused of leading a criminal group that allegedly embezzled 4 billion rubles in assets from energy companies and deposited it in foreign banks. He may face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Speaking in court, Abyzov

rejected the charges and said he will cooperate with investigators to prove his innocence.

Abyzov's lawyers asked the court to free him on bail of 1 billion rubles (\$15.4 million), an amount remarkably high by Russian standards, or let him remain under house arrest as the probe goes on.

Former Kremlin's chief of staff Alexander Voloshin, ex-Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich and Russia's ex-privatization czar Anatoly Chubais who now heads Rosnano company all vouched for Abyz-

ov, but the court rejected defense appeals and ordered him stay in jail.

Abyzov was Russia's minister for open government affairs in 2012-2018, overseeing information technologies and efforts to increase government transparency. He was a close associate of Dmitry Medvedev, who was Russian president in 2008-2012 when term limits forced Vladimir Putin to move into the premier's seat. Abyzov was among those in Medvedev's inner circle who reportedly encouraged him to run for a second term. □



Former Russian Minister in charge of the "Open Government" Mikhail Abyzov, center, is conveyed for a hearing in a court in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

Uruguayans turn tough on crime to tackle growing violence

By **LEONARDO HABERKORN**
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — Long famed for being a peaceful haven in South America, Uruguay is experiencing what some analysts and international organizations describe as an "epidemic" of violence. Homicides in Uruguay increased by 46 percent last year, reaching an official rate of 11.8 per 100,000 people. The figure is far below the alarming homicide rates, often fed by drug wars and gang violence, in countries like Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela. But Uruguay's homicide rate is now higher than most South American nations and is at a record high for the small country of about 3.5 million people.

Many Uruguayans have decided that drastic measures are in order. In less than a year, some 407,000 people — about a sixth of eligible voters — have signed a formal petition calling for a referendum to implement tough policies against crime. It will be held at the same time as the presidential election in October, amplifying crime as a campaign issue.

The initiative seeks life imprisonment for crimes such as multiple murders, contract killings and the rape



In this March 11, 2019 photo, Uruguayan Sen. Jorge Larranaga poses for a photo during an interview in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Associated Press

and murder of minors. It would also give the military a greater role in domestic security by creating a 2,000-member national guard, eliminate probation for serious crimes and allow night raids with the approval of a judge.

The government announced this week that Uruguay saw 414 homicides last year, up from 283 in 2017.

Uruguay's figures are low when compared to countries like Mexico, Brazil and El Salvador, which have 27, 30 and 50 homicides per

100,000 people, respectively. But Uruguay's rate now is double that of neighboring Argentina and triple that of Chile. And some fear it will only worsen.

Montevideo police chief Mario Layera told local newspaper El Observador that the country was on course to become as violent as El Salvador, which has one of the world's highest homicide rates as a result of gang violence.

The referendum drive was led by Sen. Jorge Larranaga, a member of the opposition National Party. It

faced opposition from the government and indifference from most other opposition leaders. But the public was enthusiastic.

"(They'd say) I won't vote for you, but I'll sign this," he said. "The people have had enough. They want it to stop. Many signed because this is the strongest stand against crime and the government's security policy."

Diego Sanjurjo, a political scientist who specializes in security issues, said the violence stems from a sharp

increase in thefts and other property crimes.

"That makes illegal markets grow and ever more people are involved in them," he said. "There are more people robbing, which increases the probability of a homicide. And it also increases the people who settle their conflicts outside the law: The criminals kill one another."

He blamed the ruling Broad Front party for failing to address rising violence as a major problem, saying it "clearly underestimated crime."

Officials at the Interior Ministry in charge of security issues declined to comment. Rising crime has been a weak point for the ruling party since it won power in 2005. Initially, the party rejected complaints, saying they were fed by sensationalist press accounts.

With time, explanations shifted. Interior Minister Eduardo Bonomi recently said that homicides are on the rise as a result of turf wars among criminals, as well as 2017 changes in a new criminal code that reduced the number of crimes for which offenders can be held in pre-trial detention and made it easier to negotiate shorter sentences via plea bargains. □

Blackouts persist in Venezuela; schools, businesses closed



Pedestrians walk past closed businesses in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — More power outages hit Venezuela on Wednesday as the government struggled to restore elec-

tricity following the nation's worst blackouts earlier this month. In Caracas, some residents left their homes to search for water after their taps dried up because of failing pumps.

A new disruption to the power grid left 91 percent of the country offline, reversing a "partial recovery" since the latest blackouts started on Monday, according to Netblocks, a group that monitors internet censorship.

President Nicolas Maduro's government said schools and state offices and industries were closed Wednesday because of the outages. Few shops in Caracas, the capital, were open and many streets were clear of the usual weekday traffic.

Electricity returned in some areas, only to go off again, frustrating residents who had little idea of how long they would have to endure the second round of

national blackouts in just a few weeks.

"These blackouts will continue to happen," said Anais Marquina, a bakery owner. "If you don't manage to get a generator, all merchandise is going to be lost."

Marquina said commerce was paralyzed because many people can't get to work or go home without a functioning subway or other public transport.

On Wednesday, some people in Caracas headed out with empty containers to try to find water in the scattered neighborhoods that had electricity, or at springs in the hills alongside the city.

After the last blackouts started on March 7, the situ-

ation became increasingly desperate for many Venezuelans when water pumps stopped working without power. Looters ransacked hundreds of businesses in the city of Maracaibo. The blackouts eased nearly a week later, but many areas only had intermittent power even after the government said the problem was solved.

Maduro accuses the United States and the Venezuelan opposition of sabotaging the country's decrepit power system. U.S. officials and opposition leader Juan Guaido say the accusation is an attempt to divert attention from the government's mismanagement over many years. □

LOCAL

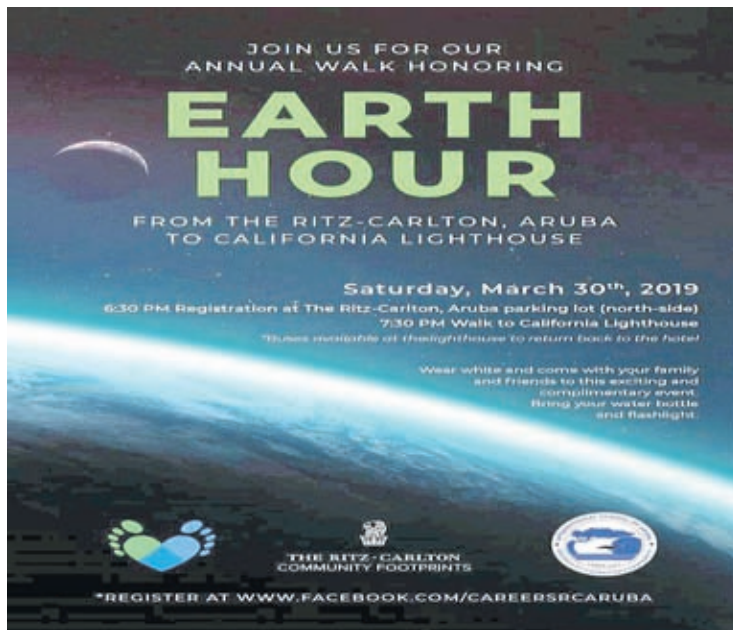


Honoring Earth Hour

ORANJESTAD – Our house is our planet. Do we take good care of it? Not always, but for sure we can make an effort as every energy counts. Make a promise for the planet coming Saturday at 8.30 PM during Earth Hour. The initiative, coordinated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), is supported by the Earth Hour Aruba Community Group. Join in and cherish your earth.

Earth Hour Aruba Commu-

nity Group was founded in March 2011, and despite the shortage of time the Group managed to inspire a large number of households and organizations to participate in Earth Hour. For the initiatives and efforts undertaken Aruba has been recognized as a participating EH country. Earth Hour Aruba Community Group was founded with the goal to encourage as many individuals and organizations to be part of Earth



Hour and to commit to initiatives to save our planet Earth.

Walk for Earth

This Saturday there will be several events that welcome you to celebrate Earth Hour together. The Ritz-Carlton Earth Annual walk is one of these initiatives and starts at 6.30 PM at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba to the California Lighthouse. It is all about the power of individuals, switch off your lights for the future of our planet and come along to hike together under the stars! Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino together with Renaissance | Mall & Marketplace will participate also by turning off the lights at the following areas: Marina Hotel: Blue spotlights at the façade, the Boulevard strip including the parking lot, the entrance of Renaissance Marketplace until and including the Seaport Casino façade, Renaissance Marketplace facade and Crystal Casino Tower. Together we can make a difference, states the hotel.

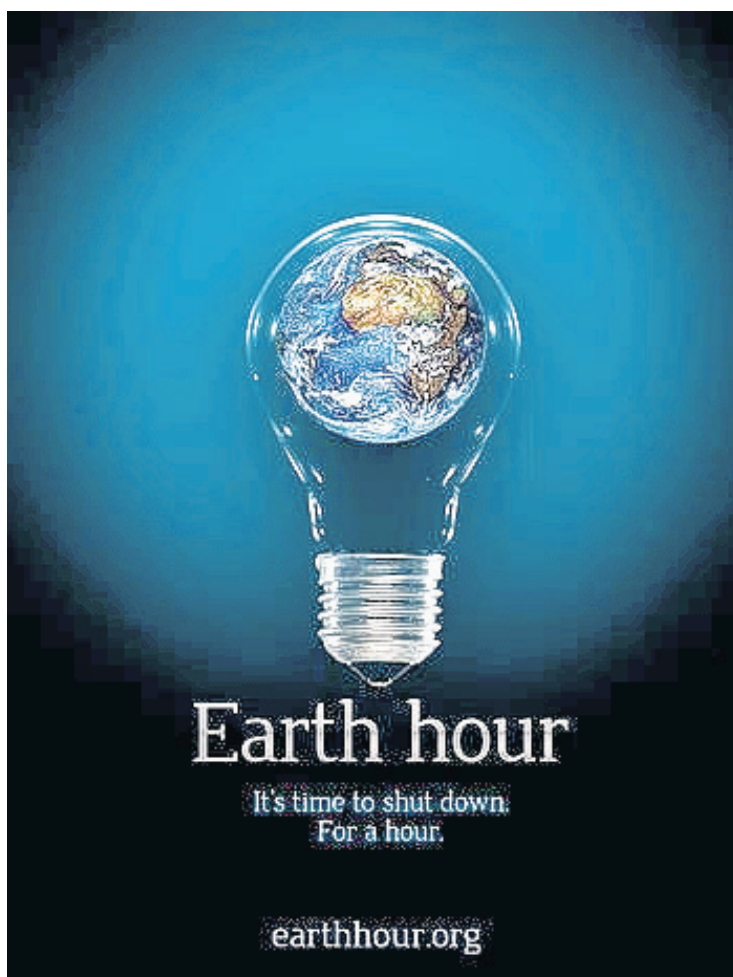
People's Power

Earth Hour started as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring

millions of people to take action for our planet and nature. From pushing for environmentally-friendly laws and policies to crowd-funding for a better future, YOU make Earth Hour possible, says their website. Coordinated by WWF and other volunteer organizations, Earth Hour's greatest strength is the power of people. As accelerating climate change and staggering biodiversity loss

threaten our planet, Earth Hour 2018-2020 endeavors to spark never-before-had conversations on the loss of nature and the urgent need to protect it. Let's show the world that the people of our lovely nation Aruba can stand as one to make a substantial contribution to this global event.

For more information: Facebook Earth Hour Aruba Community. □





Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

Walk with Me

COLUMBIA, SC — Spring break is over, which means it is time to go back to the books and the college lifestyle. In other words, back to reality. Time is passing by so quickly, and sometimes I honestly cannot believe that it is almost time for me to go back home. In less than about one month and a half, the semester will be over, and I will be going back to Aruba.

In my previous article, I mentioned some of the things I have been doing and also, the things that I planned to do during my spring break. I spent most of my spring break in Asheville and I loved it there. The people in Asheville are very friendly, and the local cuisine is delicious. I loved exploring downtown. Moreover, I also loved the fact that I had the opportunity to spend some time in nature and go hiking. The Blue Ridge Parkway was just an hour drive away from where I was staying, which made it easy to go explore nature and disconnect for a while. Spring break was a much-needed relaxation and I had a great time.

While I was walking to class this week, I thought about the people that I have met and the great friends that I have gained during my exchange semester at the University of South Carolina. This made me contemplate about the concept of friendship. When I walk on campus to go to class or



to go grab a bite, I see many students walking to class with their friends. Sometimes these students are walking together in pairs or sometimes in groups. Occasionally, I do encounter students walking alone, but sometimes it is because they are going to meet someone else nearby. Many of these students already have their own group of friends at the university. This led me to think about the challenges that international or even local students can face to find their "place" during their college years, especially at big universities.

I recalled a moment I had during my first week at the University of South Carolina, where a lady was sharing her story about her college life with me. She had mentioned that during her freshman year, she felt extremely lonely. She did not manage to make any new friends, since almost everyone had "their own circle" and she felt that she did not fit in anywhere. However, she did mention that as the months and years started to go by, she managed to meet some new people, which eventually turned out to be her best friends. Up until now,

she still remains good friends with this group of people. She emphasized on the importance that universities, especially big universities such as the University of South Carolina should place on finding various ways in which students can get the opportunity to engage with each other and meet other students.

In my case, I was not placed in the international student house on campus, since there were no more rooms available. I was placed into an apartment-style housing. The dorm is very centrally situated, which makes it easy for students to get around on campus. However, it is still an apartment-style dorm and that means that students have more privacy. In addition, they do not host any special events for the residents. Meanwhile, the international housing does focus on hosting events where students can engage with each other. At first, when I got here and found out I was not placed in an international house, I felt a little scared, especially after hearing the story of the lady. I thought about the challenges I might face to meet new people and gain new friends. But

as the weeks flew by, I started to get out of my comfort zone and found ways in which I can meet new people. I met people in my class, and I signed up for the Buddies Beyond Borders program. Later, I also found out that there are a bunch of other Aruban students who are currently studying here. All of these things made my exchange semester abroad experience a lot more enjoyable.

I will be going to a Buddies Beyond Borders game night this week. This event will give me and my buddy an opportunity to meet everyone who has signed up for the program. I am very excited to see how this will turn out. Ever since I have decided to sign up for the program, my buddy and I have become great friends and I also got the opportunity to meet other local students.

There are not many weeks left for my exchange semester to come to an end, so I will definitely not miss a chance to keep you all up to date with my latest experiences and adventures as an exchange student at the University of South Carolina. □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

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Goodwill & Emerald Ambassadors at Costa Linda Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH— Marouska Heyliger of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a group of loyal and friendly visitors. The distinctive certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Gerald Di Maso, Matthew Di Maso, Alana Di Maso, Nicholas Di Maso, Amanda Pontone and Alyssa Jo Pontone, who have been coming to the island for over 20 consecutive years and have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.



Also honored were Thomas Pontone, Ann Marie Pontone, Serena and Gerald Dimaso and Patricia and Sal Fusco as Emerald Ambassadors. They have been coming to our island for over 35 consecutive years.

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the lovely people, the beautiful weather, the beautiful beaches and simply because Aruba to them is their home away from home.

Heyliger together with representatives of Costa Linda beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination. □

It's A Wrap



ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today recently launched its very first video of the series 'Ask Pilar' at Facebook Aruba Today and on our

website www.arubatoday.com. Let us introduce to you this fresh new project and the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides our daily printed free newspaper, our posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variation to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places of any kind. We are all new to this, but goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, moreover motivate with the content and topic as well as the good energy coming from it." Aruba Today will publish two or more videos per week and



the concept will be interactive. Meaning that as the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already reveals, the viewer has the tool to actually ask about the topics shown or maybe even suggest a location/topic for a video. Just ask our host Pilar through Facebook comments or messenger.

because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a junior marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like." His hobbies include photography, gaming, and working on his car. "I am not a car mechanic, however YouTube helps a lot and I find it very therapeutic to put everything aside and work on this piece of metal that helps me move long distances." Juan Luis loves to capture moments with his camera and edit them into a dynamic video.

THE TEAM

Pilar Flores, 33 years old, is the jolly Video Host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to meet a lot of nice people and to know many interesting places. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do." Flores is Executive Editor at Bon Dia Newspaper, Aruba Today's sister, where she is fond of being up to date on all current happenings and events and having the inside information. She has a Bachelor of Theology, achieved in Aberdeen, Scotland and a Masters of Applied Ethics in Utrecht, The Netherlands. "In my leisure time I like to walk in Arikok National park, play with my three cats, color and spend time with my boyfriend."

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017 and before that for six years with the local newspaper in Dutch, Amigoe di Aruba as a journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine H&H. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we for sure hope that rubs off to the viewer."

The one capturing the images with his camera and edit them into the end result is our Videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing

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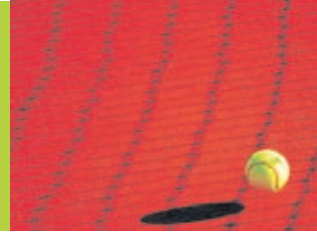


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SPORTS



In this Sept. 2, 2018, file photo, Houston Astros manager AJ Hinch (14) pulls starting pitcher Gerrit Cole (45) with two runners on base and two out in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, in Houston.
Associated Press

Complete games, shutouts nearly extinct in today's baseball

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The complete game is nearly completely gone from baseball. Shutouts are vanishing, too. The numbers are striking. Go back to 1978, and there were more than 1,000 complete games in the majors. Move to 2003, and the total was about 200. In 2018, though, there were only 42 — the lowest total in the sport's history, according to Baseball-Reference.com — and just 19 of those were shutouts, the fewest since the 1870s. Or to put it a different way: Roughly every other game featured a starter who went the distance 40 years ago, whereas about one in every 55 games did last season.

Continued on Page 22

MISMATCHED



Tiger, McIlroy winners of their opening rounds at WGC-Match Play

Rory McIlroy reacts to a missed putt during round-robin play at the Dell Match Play Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

A win for Woods in his return to Match Play



Tiger Woods hits his drive from the eighth tee during round-robin play at the Dell Match Play Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Tiger Woods made a successful return to the Dell Technologies Match Play with a victory.

Jordan Spieth found some success with a tie.

The most unpredictable tournament in golf began Wednesday with only a few surprises as only four of the top 16 seeds in group play failed to win their opening match at Austin Country Club.

Woods, a three-time winner of this World Golf Championships, had not played since losing in the opening round in 2013. He had a wild time with Aaron Wise until putting him away on the 17th hole.

"The way we were playing today, we're very thankful it's not stroke play," Woods said with a laugh.

Wise gave away the opening two holes with a double bogey and a bogey. Woods went from 2 up to 1 down around the turn, and then he regained control when Wise missed too many short par putts. Woods closed him out, 3 and 1, when Wise three-putted the par-3 17th.

But it was tough on everyone. A sturdy wind through the trees and valleys, along with some pins set along the mounds on the putting surfaces, made mistakes costly.

Justin Thomas at No. 5 was the only player from the top 10 seeds to lose, falling behind to Lucas Bjerregaard of Denmark, who never gave him much of a chance to get back in the match. It ended on the 16th, when Thomas hit what he thought was a perfect wedge only to see it carom

off the flag stick and into the rough.

As usual, there were quick shifts in momentum, and a few big rallies at the end. One of those belonged to Spieth, and it was badly needed. Spieth, the No. 4 seed in this event last year, is now at No. 28. He has not finished better than a tie for 35th in his six tournaments this year, alarming as the Masters nears.

And he was 3 down after just six holes to Billy Horschel. Spieth managed to square the match with five holes to play when it seemingly fell apart with a tee shot along the banks of the Colorado River that he chopped out into a foot print in the bunker left by a bird. He lost that hole. And then he turned a chance to tie the match into another loss of hole when he three-putted from about 20 feet on the

15th.

Horschel helped the cause by missing a 3-foot par putt on the 16th that would have kept him 2 up with two to play. Spieth took it from there. He made a 6-foot birdie to match Horschel and send it to the 18th, and he lofted a wedge to 2 feet for birdie to win the 18th.

It was only worth a half-point from a match in which he never led, and it's just one out of three matches in group play. It felt like more to Spieth.

"To birdie the last two holes is really big for me right now as I'm looking to gain confidence under pressure and kind of test some of the stuff I've been working on," Spieth said. "It feels like you're battling to try to win a golf tournament on a Saturday or Sunday toward the end of these matches. So it was really cool to hit some

clutch shots and pull off a tie there 2 down and three to go." Spieth said it was the best he has played under pressure in a while, before catching himself because he hasn't been in a pressure situation in more than six months.

Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 seed for the third straight year, had no trouble beating Chez Reavie. Johnson won the Match Play in Austin two years ago. Last year, he didn't win any of his three matches.

Brooks Koepka was trailing with three holes to go when he won the next two holes to take a 1-up lead to the 18th, only for Tom Lewis of England to birdie the 18th for a halve.

Defending champion Bubba Watson lost his opening match for the first time since he began playing this event in 2011. Watson needed to win the 18th against Kevin Na, but his second shot out of the bunker in front of the green came back down the slope and into his footprint. His next shot, far more difficult, started to come down the hill when he jogged over and picked it up to concede the match.

In the group of major champions, Henrik Stenson got the same result against Phil Mickelson as he did at Royal Troon when he won the 2016 British Open. He won on the 17th hole when Mickelson's tee shot went over the green, off the rocks and into a hazard. In the other match, Jim Furyk rallied from 3 down to beat Jason Day on the 18th hole. That kept alive Furyk's hopes for winning enough this week to move into the top 50 and qualify for the Masters. He wasn't alone in that regard. Andrew Putnam took a similar step by beating Patrick Reed.

Justin Harding of South Africa, just inside the top 50 and in danger of being passed, was 2 down with three to play against Matt Fitzpatrick when he won the last three holes — two of them with pars — to win the match.

"I definitely feel as though I stole it," Harding said. □

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Federer reaches quarters in Miami, Halep eyes No. 1 ranking

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Roger Federer will face a hectic few days if he's going to win another Miami Open.

He's off to a good start.

Federer is through to the quarterfinals, having little trouble on the way to a 6-4, 6-2 victory over 13th-seeded Daniil Medvedev on Wednesday — needing only 61 minutes to prevail in a match where he committed a mere eight unforced errors. The match was supposed to be Tuesday and was pushed back a day because of rain.

So now, to win what would be his fourth Miami title, Federer will have to prevail four times in a five-day span. Next up for the No. 4 seed is a quarterfinal Thursday against No. 6 seed Kevin Anderson — a match between the two highest

seeds left on the men's side, and the biggest test yet for Anderson since his return from an elbow issue.

"I'm feeling really good," Federer said. "Today's match, I can be really happy with so I hope it's going to give me some confidence for tomorrow."

Federer and Medvedev split the first eight games, and then things turned quickly. Federer broke Medvedev for a 5-4 lead in the first set, fought off three break points to close out the set in the next game, and got another break to open the second set. He cruised home from there.

"When you want to go deep in tournaments, sometimes you need those 15 minutes that go your way and you're able to pull away with the score too," Federer said of the break and then the rally from 0-40 down to serve out the

opening set. "Margins are super-slim and you need a bit of help sometimes from your opponent."

Federer leads the head-to-head against Anderson 5-1, the loss coming last year in the Wimbledon quarterfinals — Anderson winning 13-11 in the fifth set.

"If you beat me at Wimbledon, you've got my attention," Federer said.

Meanwhile, second-seeded Simona Halep also finished her match Wednesday with a flourish.

And a return to the world's No. 1 ranking could be her reward.

Halep beat 18th-seeded Qiang Wang 6-4, 7-5 in the quarterfinals. Halep won the final six games against Qiang and would return to No. 1 in the world if she wins her semifinal match against either fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova or unseeded Marketa Vondrousova. Pliskova



Simona Halep, of Romania, returns a volley to Qiang Wang, of China, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

and Vondrousova play later Wednesday in an all-Czech Republic quarterfinal.

"I just found out from my coach that I need one more match to be No. 1 again," Halep said. "It's pretty much in my head and I'm happy that I'm in

this position again."

Halep has been No. 1 twice before, including most of 2018. She surrendered the ranking to Naomi Osaka in January, and didn't think she would have a chance to grab it back again this quickly. "It would mean a lot," Halep said. □

Clippers top Timberwolves to clinch playoff berth

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Danilo Gallinari scored 25 points and the Los Angeles Clippers clinched a playoff spot Tuesday night with a 122-111 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves. Coach Doc Rivers' club is back in the postseason after falling short last year. Los Angeles finished 42-40 last season, missing the playoffs after making it six straight years — four under Rivers. The Clippers (45-30) became the fifth Western Conference team to secure a postseason berth. Lou Williams added 20 points off the bench for the Clippers, who outscored Minnesota's reserves 53-25. The Clippers have won six in a row, the longest active streak in the NBA, and 10 of 11 overall.

Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

BUCKS 108, ROCKETS 94

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Eric Bledsoe scored 23 points, including 16 in the decisive third quarter as Milwaukee topped Houston.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Bucks, who improved to an NBA-best 56-19.

James Harden scored 23 and Chris Paul 19 for the Rockets, who lost for just the third time in 17 games. Harden shot 9 of 26, including 1 for 9 from 3-point range with Bledsoe closely guarding him throughout most of the game.

MAGIC 104, HEAT 99

MIAMI (AP) — Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 16 rebounds, Jonathan Issac added 19 points and Orlando extended its longest winning streak in eight years to six games by downing Miami.

D.J. Augustin scored 17 points and Aaron Gordon finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic (37-38), who won the season series 3-1 and moved past the Heat (36-38) into eighth place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Evan Fournier added 11 points for Orlando, which hadn't had a winning streak this long since Janu-



Los Angeles Clippers' Danilo Gallinari, left, eyes the basket as Minnesota Timberwolves' Dario Saric defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Minneapolis. Gallinari led the Clippers with 25 points in their 122-111 win.

Associated Press

ary 2011.

Dion Waiters scored 26 for the Heat, who lost on the night they retired Chris Bosh's No. 1 jersey and raised it to the rafters during a halftime ceremony. Dwyane Wade had 22 points.

CELTICS 116, CAVALIERS 106

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, and Boston broke away from a fourth-quarter tie to defeat Cleveland.

Kyrie Irving (rest) didn't play for Boston, but the Celtics snapped a four-game losing streak and are 11-2 without their leading scorer. Al Horford had 19 points, including eight in the fourth quarter and the go-ahead layup early in the period. The Celtics ended the game with a 24-14 run also sparked by three-point plays from Smart and Marcus Morris to pull away.

Collin Sexton led the Cavaliers with 24 points. The Celtics' slide dropped them to fifth in the Eastern Conference with seven games to play in the regular season.

HORNETS 125, SPURS 116, OT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kemba Walker scored 11 of his 38 points in overtime and Charlotte outlasted

San Antonio to stretch its longest winning streak of the season to four games. Walker took over in the extra period, scoring Charlotte's first seven points and going 4 of 4 from the field, including a pair of clutch 3-pointers. He barely missed his third career triple-double, finishing with 11 assists and nine rebounds.

It was Charlotte's first overtime win this season in five tries.

Dwayne Bacon established a career high for the second straight game, pouring in 24 points with four 3-pointers. Frank Kaminsky added 15 points and 10 rebounds off the bench for the Hornets, who are chasing Orlando and Miami for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

DeMar DeRozan had 30 points to lead the Spurs, but missed a jumper at the end of regulation that would have won the game. LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and 15 rebounds.

RAPTORS 112, BULLS 103

TORONTO (AP) — Norman Powell scored 20 points, Serge Ibaka had 16 and Toronto beat struggling Chicago for the eighth consecutive time.

Kawhi Leonard and Kyle Lowry each added 14

points before sitting out the final quarter, and Pascal Siakam had 13. The Raptors never trailed and avoided their first three-game home losing streak of the season. Toronto lost to Charlotte on Sunday on a halfcourt buzzer-beater by Jeremy Lamb.

Wayne Selden scored 20 points as the Bulls lost for the seventh time in nine games. Chicago was without leading scorer Zach LaVine (bruised right thigh, right knee tendinitis) for the third straight game while forward Otto Porter Jr. (strained right rotator cuff) missed his fourth in a row.

NUGGETS 95, PISTONS 92

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 33 points, including six in the final minute, and Denver held off Detroit after nearly squandering a 27-point lead.

Trailing 66-39 at halftime, the Pistons cut it to one on a 3-pointer by Reggie Jackson with 11.2 seconds remaining before Murray hit a pair of free throws. Blake Griffin's last-gasp 3-point attempt bounded away.

At 50-23, the Nuggets moved into a tie with Golden State for the top spot in the Western Conference. It's the first 50-win season for Denver since the 2012-13

squad went 57-25.

Nikola Jokic finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds for his 51st double-double this season.

Griffin had 29 points and 15 rebounds for the playoff-chasing Pistons, who finished a 1-4 road trip. Andre Drummond had 13 points and 18 rebounds before fouling out.

KINGS 125, MAVERICKS 121

DALLAS (AP) — De'Aaron Fox scored 23 points, including a crucial basket to help Sacramento stay in front in the final minute against Dallas.

With the Kings leading by two, Fox drove and missed a layup but got his own rebound and tried again. The second attempt went in for a 121-117 lead with 26 seconds remaining, and the Kings finished 3-0 against Mavericks to sweep the season series for the first time since 1997-98.

Dallas rookie sensation Luka Doncic tied Magic Johnson with his seventh triple-double in his first season, getting 28 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists. It's the third-most triple-doubles by a rookie. Dwight Powell had 21 points and a season-high 13 rebounds.

Harrison Barnes scored 18 points in his first appearance in Dallas since the Mavericks traded him to Sacramento while he was playing in a game Feb. 6. Buddy Hield scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half, including a 3-pointer to put the Kings ahead for good with 1:07 remaining.

HAWKS 130, PELICANS 120

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Rookie guard Trae Young had 33 points and 12 assists for his 24th double-double of the season, leading Atlanta past New Orleans.

Young finished 12 of 24 from the field, including 5 for 12 from 3-point range, and had one turnover in 31 minutes.

DeAndre' Bembry and Dewayne Dedmon each scored 18 points, and the Hawks shot 19 for 51 from beyond the arc to win their third straight.

Julius Randle led the Pelicans with 24 points and nine rebounds. □



International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach from Germany speaks at the opening of the first day of the executive board meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

Breakdancing makes next move to Olympic status at Paris 2024

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — Breakdancing and three other sports have made the next move toward becoming medal events at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee's executive board on Wednesday recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing, and surfing to the Paris program when the full membership meets in June.

A final decision must be made by the board in December 2020 after further monitoring of the four.

Also Wednesday, the IOC board agreed to continue helping North and South Korean athletes and officials work together despite diplomatic setbacks between the neighboring governments in recent days.

Joint Korean teams are being prepared in four sports to try to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and a co-hosting bid for the 2032 Summer Games is a possible aim.

With those 2032 Olympics and the 2030 Winter Games in mind, a panel has been asked to look at ways of making an often expensive and politically unpopular candidate process "more flexible and more targeted."

"The IOC may approach a city or a region and tell them, 'Listen, isn't it not a time for you now?'" IOC President Thomas Bach said at a news conference after the second of three days of board meetings.

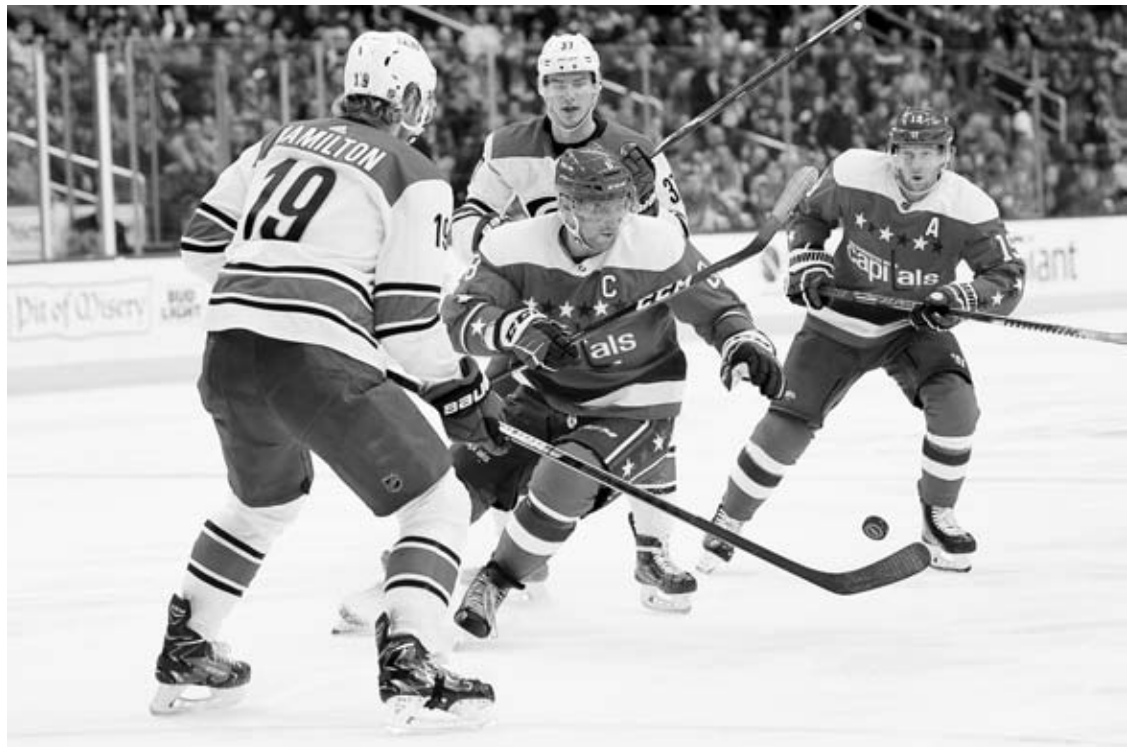
Making the Olympic Games more affordable and responsive has been a key aim for Bach. He praised the four likely additions to the Paris medal program as "more gender balanced, more youthful and more urban"

"These four sports also offer the opportunity to connect with the young generation," he said.

Though breakdancing would be new in the Summer Games, the other three are already confirmed for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics lineup.

All four sports will be assessed for how they are managed, and the integrity of competitions and judging, before being finalized for Paris.

The IOC hosted a meeting of Korean government and sports officials in February, one year after the neighbors fielded a combined teams women's ice hockey at the Pyeongchang Olympics hosted south of the border. Last Friday, North Korea withdrew staff from a shared liaison office in its border town of Kaesong. Some staff returned to work on Monday. □



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, battles for the puck against Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Dougie Hamilton, left, and right wing Andrei Svechnikov (37) during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Washington. Aisles seen is Washington Capitals center Nicklas Backstrom, back right.

Associated Press

Ovechkin ends scoring drought, Capitals beat Hurricanes 4-1

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 49th goal of the season to snap a four-game drought and help Washington beat the Carolina Hurricanes 4-1 on Tuesday night, increasing the Capitals' division lead.

Ovechkin snapped a shot past Petr Mrazek for the go-ahead goal 4:31 into the third period for his third goal in 10 games. With his 656th career goal, Ovechkin tied Brendan Shanahan for 13th on the all-time list.

T.J. Oshie and John Carlson also scored. Braden Holtby made 27 saves and Nicklas Backstrom added an empty-netter off a pass from Ovechkin as the Capitals won their second straight. Evgeny Kuznetsov had three assists on his bobblehead night.

Washington increased its lead to three points over former coach Barry Trotz and the New York Islanders atop the Metropolitan Division.

Dougie Hamilton scored and Mrazek finished with 24 saves for Columbus.

OILERS 8, KINGS 4

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Leon Draisaitl each

scored three goals, leading Edmonton past Los Angeles.

Draisaitl added an assist, Connor McDavid had a goal and three assists, and Zack Kassian also scored for the Oilers (34-34-8), who moved within five points of a wild card in the Western Conference playoff race with six games remaining. Alex Iafallo, Drew Doughty, Dustin Brown and Carl Grundstrom scored for the Kings (28-40-8), who had won three straight.

BLUE JACKETS 4, ISLANDERS 0

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Sergei Bobrovsky recorded his second consecutive shutout and Columbus stayed in the playoff hunt by beating New York.

Ryan Dzingel, Artemi Panarin, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Cam Atkinson scored, and Bobrovsky finished with 26 saves and his eighth shutout of the season for the Blue Jackets, who are fighting to get above the wild-card line in the Eastern Division with six games to play. Thomas Greiss, who had shut out Columbus twice this season, finished with 29 saves.

SENATORS 4, SABRES 0

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) —

Craig Anderson stopped 35 shots for his second shutout of the season and Ottawa beat Buffalo.

Brian Gibbons had a goal and an assist, and Anthony Duclair, Rudolfs Balcers and Magnus Paajarvi also scored.

The Senators won the first of a four-game homestand after going 1-2-0 on a three-game trip through Western Canada.

Ottawa has won its last three home games and outscored those opponents 12-2.

Carter Hutton made 27 saves for Buffalo, which lost its fourth straight.

CANADIENS 6, PANTHERS 1

MONTREAL (AP) — Tomas Tatar had two goals and an assist to lead Montreal over Florida and remain in playoff position.

Brett Kulak, Artturi Lehkonen, Phillip Danault and Max Domi also scored for the Canadiens (41-28-8), who have won four of five. Carey Price stopped 33 shots in his ninth consecutive start. Price has allowed 13 goals in his past eight games. Frank Vatrano scored for the Panthers (33-32-12), who were officially eliminated from playoff contention. □



In this Feb. 16, 2019, file photo, Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer throws a bullpen session during spring training baseball practice, in West Palm Beach, Fla. Associated Press

TODAY'S BASEBALL

Continued from Page 17

Stars of the 1960s and '70s such as Bob Gibson, Steve Carlton or Jim Palmer would top 20 complete games in a year. In the '90s, Pedro Martinez, Greg Maddux and Randy Johnson would get to 10 or 12 or so. Last year, no one threw more than two complete games. No one delivered more than one shutout.

"The special, elite guys are still able to achieve it and want to achieve it," Washington Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. "I don't think we'll ever see it disappear completely, but it's definitely becoming a rarity."

So what happened? Various factors contributed to the decline of dominant, nine-inning performances on the mound, from injury fears to an increased emphasis on accumulating bullpen arms, from the newfangled "opener" strategy of using a reliever to get things underway to protecting young pitchers in such a way that they never build up an ability to stay in until the end of games.

Still, the basic sense around the sport is that it's not that

pitchers are no longer born with shoulders or elbows capable of producing complete games, but that their teams simply won't let them even try and generally don't properly prepare them to do so.

"Everyone," Atlanta Braves right-hander Kevin Gausman summed up, "is obsessed with pitch count now."

It's a trend that seemed to gain steam in the 2000s, not coincidentally as more and more pitchers were getting elbow injuries that required Tommy John surgery.

Don't let most guys throw too hard for too long, the thinking goes.

"There's a general pullback in the industry, because they couldn't comprehend why so many people were getting hurt. The biggest mass effect you can have is workload," Houston Astros righty Gerrit Cole said. "Just overall, clubs are kind of doing a risk analysis. ... They are trying to be smarter about it and disburse the load a little bit to some other guys."

Merely six starters averaged at least 100 pitches per outing last season, down from 43 in 2011, per TeamRank-

ings.com.

Cole was a member of that group in 2018, which also included his teammate Justin Verlander, NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom of the New York Mets, and three-time Cy Young recipient Max Scherzer of the Nationals.

"They're really holding starters down to 100 pitches and not letting you go past that. If you do, maybe you get 110. But you rarely see guys get to 120 anymore," Scherzer said. "If an inning takes 15 pitches, you get to 105 after seven and that's about all you get. The data shows that once you get past 105, 110, that's when you do start losing your effectiveness, no matter how good of a starter you are." In this age of hard-throwing relievers and lefty specialists, a team would rather have someone fresh pitch than a player laboring for hours.

"Everybody's coming in throwing gas. Are you really that much better than those guys down there at that point in time?" Scherzer said. "That's where you have to be honest with yourself and your manager and say, 'I've given every-

thing I've got over these 105, 110 pitches.' The decision becomes pretty easy for the manager to say, 'I'm going to go to one of my wipeout bullpen guys.'"

Scherzer has been known to lobby to remain in at key late-game moments. He's as competitive as they come. Yet he says he grasped early in his career that all that truly matters is that his team wins — not how it happens.

His initial complete game arrived in his 179th big league start; he has 10 over the past five seasons.

"There were opportunities where I could have pitched one sooner. But it didn't matter. I could have gone back out there, but we're winning by 10 or 11 runs, so why go pitch the ninth? So I can say that I did it? No, then I'm hurting the team. It would be a selfish accomplishment," Scherzer said. "There's times where if you can get a rest, take it. You're actually helping the team more by not doing it." He also pointed to another element: the score.

"The sweet spot to throw a complete game now is being up three or four runs," Scherzer said. "That's the

only time where it makes sense to think, 'We still need our best guy in there, and it's not a save situation.'"

As with everything in professional sports these days, it's all about what the numbers dictate.

And there are calculations connected to saving up strength for the postseason, too; if NBA players sit out entire regular-season games for "load management," why shouldn't a pitcher head to the clubhouse a little early?

Bullpens are built to get the last six or nine outs, and it's OK for a starter to become conditioned to go six or seven innings.

That starts happening in the minors, when pitchers are pulled as soon as they show signs of fatigue.

By the time they get to the majors, they're not used to working through that.

"We have a way of trying to evolve as an industry that's taken out a little bit of the 'machismo' that goes with the complete game," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "I'm not sure if that's good or bad, but it's part of the evolution of analytics being applied at a higher rate across the board." □

Cleaning up the mess in boxing's heavyweight class

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Columnist

Lennox Lewis always wanted to fight everybody, and did so often enough to become the last person to hold all the major heavyweight titles at the same time.

That meant Riddick Bowe, even after Bowe threw a title belt in a garbage can to avoid him.

It also meant Mike Tyson, even after Tyson threatened to eat his children.

"Just prison talk," Lewis said. "At the time I didn't even have any children."

The best fighting the best. That was always Lewis' philosophy, and it culminated in a 2002 annihilation of Tyson that cemented his legacy as an all-time heavyweight great.

It's also what makes it painful to look at the mess that is the heavyweight division today.

There's no lack of good,

possibly even great, fighters. But so far — for reasons that start with greed and go beyond the fighters themselves — there's been a lack of great fights.

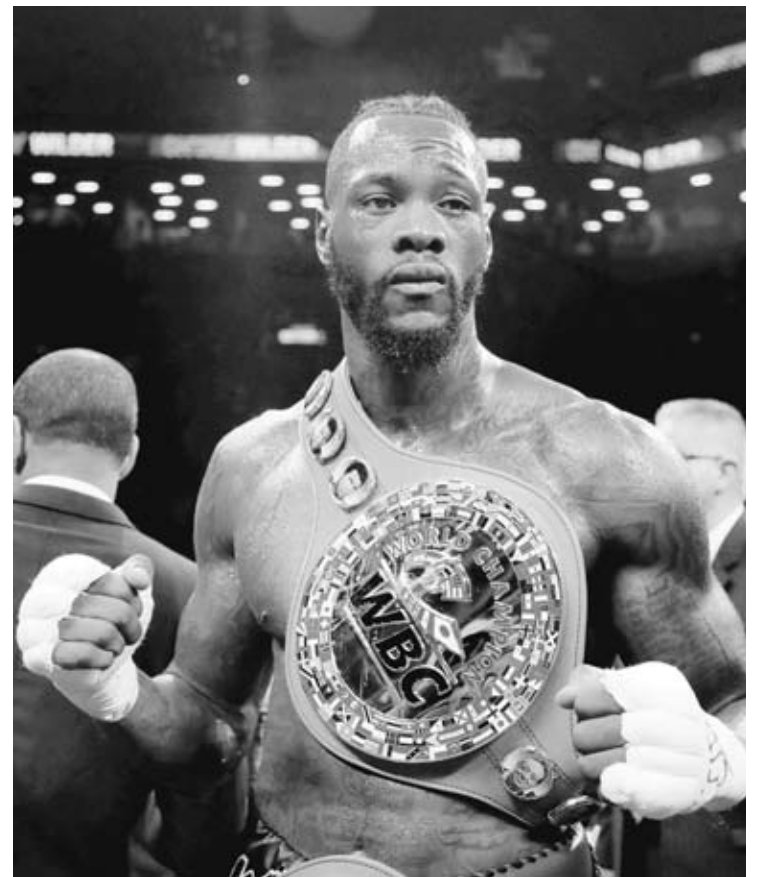
"My aim was always to be the undisputed champion," said Lewis, who now works for Fox Sports as a ringside analyst. "These boxers now aren't really talking about that."

That could change if fighters, their promoters and the various television platforms somehow find a way to work together. But that was unlikely to begin with, and even more unlikely now that the major participants in the heavyweight sweepstakes have aligned themselves with promoters and broadcasting platforms that don't play well together.

Anthony Joshua versus Deontay Wilder is the fight everyone wants to see. Tyson Fury is right in the mix,

and there are a number of fringe title contenders who on the right night might make heavyweight history. But a highly anticipated rematch between Wilder and Fury of their December draw is off because Fury signed with Top Rank and ESPN while Wilder is fighting — at least for now — under the Showtime banner. Wilder against Joshua seems to be even further from reality as the two camps can't agree on broadcasters, terms or even if they really want to fight each other.

So Joshua is fighting at Madison Square Garden in June, but instead of Wilder he's got an opponent in Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller who is a decent fighter but hardly a household name. Wilder is fighting Dominic Breazeale on May 18 at Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, while Fury returns to the ring June 15 against Germany's Tom Schwarz in Las Vegas.



In this March 3, 2018, file photo, Deontay Wilder poses for photographs after the WBC heavyweight champion defeated Luis Ortiz in New York.

Associated Press

And we're suddenly no closer to a first undisputed heavyweight champion since Lewis beat Evander Holyfield 20 years ago to win all the belts.

"The heavyweights nowa-

days, they want to be undisputed but the business machine takes over and managers take over," Lewis said. "They want longevity, but they're basically slowing down the process." □

Pulisic scores, leaves with leg injury as U.S. ties Chile 1-1

HOUSTON (AP) — Shortly after becoming the youngest American with 10 international goals, Christian Pulisic limped off with another leg injury.

Pulisic scored in the fourth minute of the United States' 1-1 exhibition tie against South American champion Chile on Tuesday night, a result that denied Gregg Berhalter's bid to become the first American coach to win his first four games.

Pulisic has been limited to 15 league matches and 25 overall this season for Borussia Dortmund. He tore a calf muscle last October and a thigh muscle in February, and lost playing time because of the emergence of 19-year-old English winger Jadon Sancho. "I think you look into the why, and you do an inquiry as to why it's happening and you make adjustments," Berhalter said.

Chelsea agreed in January to buy Pulisic from Dortmund for 64 million eu-

ros (then \$73 million) and loaned him back to the German club for the rest of the season.

"I think he's at a top club and going to a top club," Berhalter said. "We have very high-level medical personnel on our side, and we'll get it right."

Pulisic scored in the fourth minute, bursting toward goal, running onto a one-touch pass from Gyasi Zardes and beating goalkeeper Gabriel Arias from just inside the penalty area. At 20 years, 189 days, Pulisic broke the American mark for youngest to double-digit goals, set in October 2010 by Jozy Altidore at 20 years, 337 days. Goalkeeper Ethan Horvath had cleared the ball to Zardes at midfield.

Pulisic had not scored since the October 2017 loss at Trinidad and Tobago that cost the U.S. a World Cup berth. Defender Omar Gonzalez made his first appearance since that night

in Couva, when his first half own goal on a failed clearance started the Americans' downfall.

Chile, ranked 13th in the world, tied the score in the ninth minute when 28-year-old defender Oscar Opazo scored his first international goal. The Americans failed to clear the ball as it bounced around the penalty area, and Opazo one-timed the ball past Horvath, with the ball taking a slight deflection off a defender. Right back DeAndre Yedlin, who captained the U.S. for the first time, credited Berhalter for an aggressive style of play.

"There's going to be a lot of media that are going to say, 'They are stubborn and stupid for trying to play while they are pressing,' but the point of the fact is that we are playing a friendly for a reason, and that is to work on the things you work on in training."

The U.S. had not previously allowed a goal under Ber-



United States midfielder Christian Pulisic celebrates his during the first half of an international friendly soccer match against Chile, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Houston.

Associated Press

halter, who opened with three wins to match the U.S. record set by Bob Bradley in 2007.

Berhalter changed seven starters from Friday's 1-0 win over Ecuador, and

Chile dominated possession. Yedlin started at right back in place of Tyler Adams, who returned to RB Leipzig in Germany, and Tim Ream remained at left back. Gonzalez and Matt Miazga took over from John Brooks and Aaron Long in central defense, Michael Bradley replaced Wil Trapp in defensive midfield.

Left back Daniel Lovitz entered in the 56th minute for winger Corey Baird, and the formation shifted to five defenders, with Ream moving to the middle.

"The five-back formation wasn't a formation we had worked on in training, so it was something we had to kind of adjust to in the game," Yedlin said. "I thought the team did pretty well with it. There were some times where we are a little hesitant to do some things, but I think for the most part, we kept pretty good possession of the ball and defended well when we needed to defend." □

The good, bad and the unknown of Apple's new services

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It took a while, but finally — and with the carefully curated help of Oprah, Big Bird and Goldman Sachs — Apple has at last unveiled a new streaming TV service, its own branded credit card and a news subscription product. The moves have been largely expected and so far don't appear to drastically alter the competitive landscape the way Apple has done with previous products such as the iPhone and the iPad. Still, the announcements represent an important step for the company as it seeks to diversify how it makes money amid declining sales of the iPhone, even if by themselves they are unlikely to turn Apple's big ship either way. But it's a way to keep fans sticking with Apple even when they aren't buying a new iPhone every year. Monday's announcements lacked some key details, such as pricing of the TV service. Here's a rundown on what Apple unveiled — what's good, what's not so good and what we still



In this Sunday, March 24, 2019 photo people walk on a pedestrian walkway, in Boston's Seaport district.

Associated Press

don't know.

— APPLE TV PLUS

The good: Oprah, Jason Momoa, Big Bird, Steven Spielberg and a host of other stars have lent themselves to original Apple shows that range from documentaries to science fiction, drama and preschool television programming. The focus on "quality storytelling" is consistent with Apple's image and ana-

lysts say is likely to produce some hit shows.

The bad: Even so, "it will lack the full range and diversity of content available through Netflix, Amazon and others, and that is set to limit its appeal," said Martin Garner, an analyst at CCS Insight. Apple also joins a crowded market and it's not clear how many more monthly subscriptions people have the money and

the bandwidth for.

The unknown: Apple hasn't said how much it's going to cost.

— APPLE NEWS PLUS

The good: The price, \$10 per month, looks like a good deal compared to separate subscriptions for newspapers and magazines (Apple will include more than 300 of the latter, including The New Yorker and Sports Illustrat-

ed). Apple is touting "richly designed articles" that let people read publications tailored to Apple devices in all their glory. Apple has also included privacy protections, and says it will collect data about what people read in a way that it won't know who read what — just how much total time is spent on different articles. The bad: While The Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal have signed on, other big-name news publishers, such as The New York Times, have not. Nor have, in fact, most other major U.S. newspapers. The unknown: It's not entirely clear how much news you're getting for your money. The Journal, famous for its business and industry coverage and commanding nearly \$40 a month, will make "specially curated" general-interest news available for Apple customers, for example. Other stories will still be there — but Apple says users will have to search for the articles themselves.

— APPLE CARD

The good: Security and privacy, two areas Apple prides itself on, are a clear focus. □

Apple vs. Netflix: Why turf wars are flaring in big tech

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Apple's latest move into streaming video illustrates an escalating trend: Tech's biggest companies, faced with limits to their growth, are encroaching on each other's turf. Apple is taking on Netflix. Facebook is edging into Amazon's sphere with its e-commerce plans. Google, which has already challenged Amazon and Microsoft in cloud computing, is launching an online game service that could undercut the lucrative game-console business at Microsoft and Sony. Apple, which is also launching a gaming service and introducing its own credit card, may be veering the most outside its comfort zone, technology industry



Jennifer Bailey, vice president of Apple Pay, speaks at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new products Monday, March 25, 2019, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

analyst Rob Enderle said. "This is an awful lot of breadth really quickly for a company that hasn't been known for being great at breadth," Enderle said.

"This is much more diversity than Apple's ever had." Before, when the company's product suite grew too varied, "what Steve Jobs did with Apple was,

he made the company focus," Enderle said.

These are different times, however, and Apple may have decided that it doesn't have much choice amid declining sales of its premier product, the iPhone.

"They have kind of bled the device market dry," said Sally Edgar, of UK-based technology consultancy Waterstons. "Companies will increasingly be about subscription services. I think they have to do it to survive."

Tech companies, of course, have explored new markets and fought turf battles over them for years. Facebook and Google have long scrapped over digital ads. Google and Amazon are battling it

out over voice assistants in the home. Google and Microsoft have competing search engines. And Apple and Google have waged an epic smartphone battle for roughly a decade. But longtime tech industry analyst Tim Bajarin sees new urgency in the latest push into streaming services and other businesses that bring in continuous flows of money — not just when consumers make big investments in new phones or other hardware.

"It's just becoming clearer today that the only way a company is going to grow is by adding a recurring revenue model," Bajarin said. "Apple is becoming an aggregator of content. They now have multiple services that will help them grow their bottom line." □

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apartment

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Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi
& private roof top patio



Unpleasant surprises: Buying a company can bring challenges

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Matt Barber and Joel Doub bought a fishing rod manufacturer two years ago, the plan was for previous owner Tom Morgan to stay with the business for five years to mentor them. But six months after the deal closed, Morgan died unexpectedly.

"It forced us to sink or swim and accelerated our learning curve," says Barber, co-owner of Tom Morgan Rodsmiths in Bozeman, Montana. "My approach was, OK, here's a setback, let's put our heads down, stay positive and persevere."

Small business owners can face unexpected challenges after buying a company, whether they're impossible-to-foresee events such as Barber and Doub experienced or problems that weren't apparent or that prospective owners didn't investigate. Among them: defiant staffers, outdated technology and shaky finances. In each case, an owner must regroup and figure out how to overcome the obstacles. Business advisers say it helps to go into a purchase knowing there will be unknowns, surprises and disappointments.

"It's always a leap of faith that you're taking," says Gene Marks, owner of The Marks Group, a small business consulting firm in Bala



In this Sept. 15, 2017, photo co-owners of fishing rod manufacturer Tom Morgan Rodsmiths, Matt Barber, left, and Joel Doub inspect a rod during the build process at the company in Bozeman, Mont.

Associated Press

Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. "You think you've figured out 80 or 90 percent, but there's always another 10 or 20 percent you can't predict." Barber and Doub hoped to learn the craft of making fly fishing rods from Morgan, as well as the nitty gritty of running the company. "I would have relied on his expertise, have him be the brains," says Barber, who estimates the loss of Morgan set the company's transition back by a year. But the partners received guidance and assistance from Morgan's wife, Gerri, the company's vendors, customers and even competitors.

When Cathy Miron bought eSilo, a data storage and recovery company, she expected to use the firm's cash flow to fund a refresh and upgrade of the technology. But eSilo turned out to need more work and more of an investment than Miron anticipated. Her vision was to begin introducing new products six months after the May 2018 purchase. Now, it's looking like she won't do that until this coming May. "This is ironic, since my main motivation for buying an established business with a 17-year history was the hope that I could bypass much of the early chaos,"

Miron says. She realizes she needs to work at a "comfortable pace that you can sustain for the long-distance marathon that is business ownership." Before buying a company, it's standard operating procedure to do what's called due diligence, examining a company's books and talking to employees, customers and vendors to get a sense of what the company needs. But, Marks says, "when you're given the numbers for the business, you have to take them with a grain of salt." Sellers who want to close a deal may not reveal some of their issues.

And even a veteran business owner can fall short on due diligence. When Rob Basso learned in 2012 that a competing payroll company was available, he thought, "we can't pass this up."

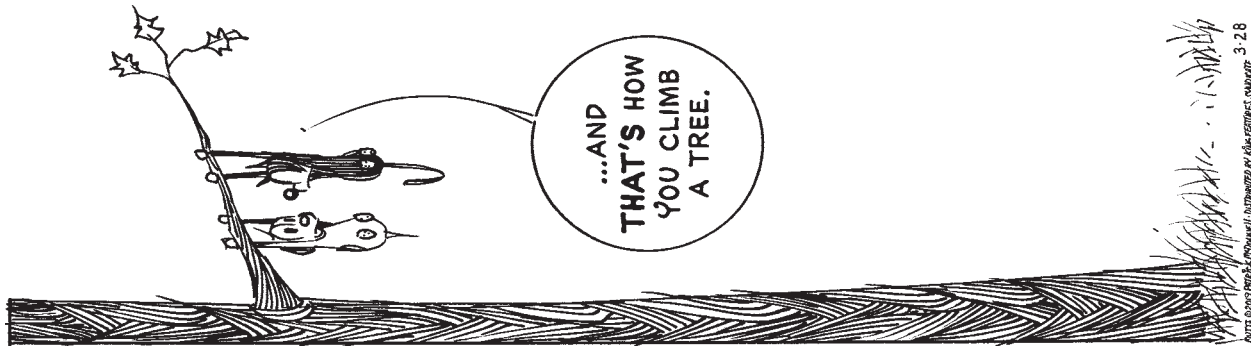
But when Basso started to combine the business and his firm, Advantage Payroll, he encountered an uncooperative new staff and two hard-to-integrate software systems and sets of vendors. It took more work than he expected.

"I wrongly estimated, probably because I didn't do some of the heavy lifting I should have," says Basso, whose company was based in Freeport, New York.

It took about two years for Basso and his managers to consolidate the companies. They lost all 17 employees of the acquired business and had to meld the software systems into one that would fit all the customers' needs. But the work paid off: Basso sold the combined company last year at a profit.

The floral retailer Brad Daniel bought also seemed like a great deal until he realized the company, formed from the previous merger of two businesses, had 250 staffers who were in separate camps and didn't want to work with one another. Daniel bought the company, which had 30 stores in the Southeast, out of bankruptcy in 2001. □

Mutts



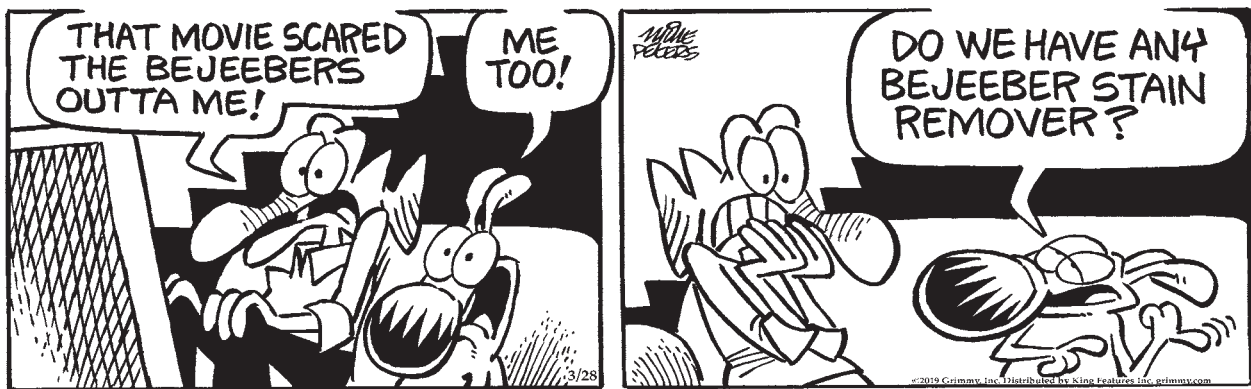
6 Chix



Blondie



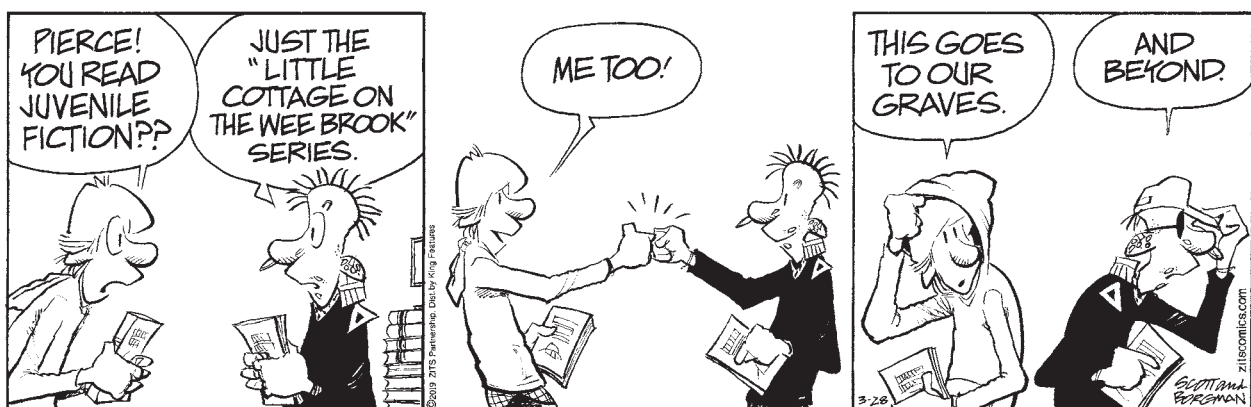
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	5				6		
			8				
6	3				7		1
		3		4			
	9					7	
		6		9			
3	9				5		6
			2				
	1				3		2

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

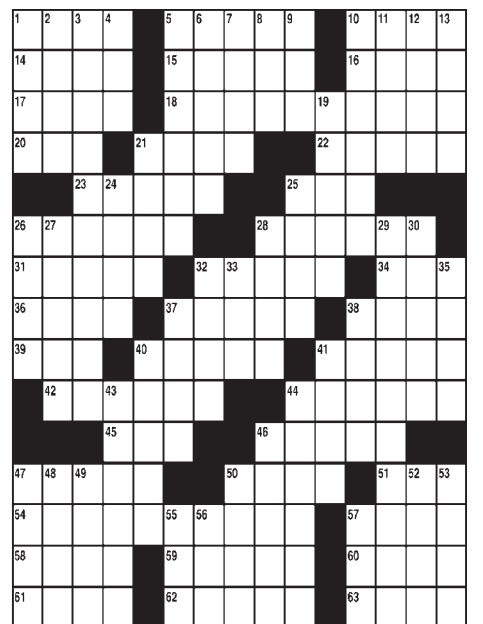
5	2	7	9	8	3	6	1	4
6	8	3	1	5	4	7	9	2
9	1	4	6	2	7	5	8	3
4	3	1	8	6	2	9	7	5
2	9	8	4	7	5	1	3	6
7	6	5	3	9	1	2	4	8
1	7	6	5	4	8	3	2	9
8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6	1
3	4	9	2	1	6	8	5	7

ACROSS

- Quarrel
- Lowly workers
- Aberdeen resident
- Gen. Robert
- Oakley or Potts
- "There's no place like _!"
- Citrus fruit
- Analyzes again
- Flowery ring
- Sweet spreads
- Large appliances
- Poor
- Gout site
- Pain-killing drug
- Terrible fright
- Desires
- song; TV show opener
- Bekins truck
- TV crime drama series
- Gullible saps
- Trait transmitter
- up; arrange
- Summoned with a beeper
- Bart's mom
- Bundle of energy
- Said out loud
- TV's "Who Do You Think You _?"
- Singer Brooks
- Freshwater fish
- Irritate
- Noah's boat
- Sounds familiar
- Factual
- Hives symptom
- Implement in a tureen
- Unightly
- Sports event
- Disrespectful
- The Bee

DOWN

- on; report the misdeeds of
- Nastase of tennis
- Womanliness
- Commission



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/28/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ALIT	ASAN	ALSO
LANAS	TOME	VAIN
ANDRE	INAUDIBLE	
SKI	VAL	ROASTS
SCENT	OUT	
ACCORD	ASSETS	
CARVE	BELIE	UPS
TREE	REAPS	TRIO
SEE	FEARS	LIBEL
STALER	CARUSO	
BUN	TOWEL	
AGHAST	ROY	ELM
BROTHERLY	ERNIE	
EASE	RUES	ROCKS
DYED	SNIT	BEEES

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3/28/19

- Additional amount
- All for; to no avail
- Lowland area
- Fish's breathing organs
- Cut off the edges of
- Ceremony
- in a blue moon; seldom
- Cincinnati team
- Regulation
- Door openers
- Pacino & Gore
- Ewe's cry
- Pull hard

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K
House For Sale
Catiri central located
3 BR , 2 Bath, \$250 K
Barba di Jucuman street \$335K
4 BR , 3 bath , swimming pool
Janana
3 BR , 2 bath , 1 apartment
\$330K
many more listings

Ambassador Wing CDM

1 BR wk 12 2nd floor pool View
\$7500
Private Tour To Chocolate City
and Baby Beach, Historic sites,
Red district service to and from

HalleyTimeTravelAruba.

& NaturesAdventuresColombia.
Present: Medellin
Nature's best Mountains,
Rivers,Jungle,
Guatape, CityShoppingTour
and muchmore.
Sp/Eng/Dutch/Papiamentto
speaking Guides.
WorldFamous HealthService
Orientation.
Roxanne:5664329

Dutch Village

studio wk # 12 & 13
ground floor deluxe
35 weeks remain \$10,000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK 11 &12
building 9 7th floor
33 weeks remain \$25 K each
1 BR WK 11
building 7 3rd floor
34 weeks remain \$15 K

Ambassador Wing CDM

1 BR WK 12
2sd floor pool/view\$7500
La Cabana Beach and Casino
Thursday check in
1 BR and Studio WK # 11,12,13
2sd floor garden view
1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11
3rd floor B 3 \$9000
26 weeks remain
Studio wk # 11
ground floor B 4 \$7500
30 weeks remain

Divi Village

Building C elevator
2 BR wk 13 \$14 K
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated
weeks remain
1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in
1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both
4th floor pool/ocean view
Friday check in
1 BR WK # 12
4 th floor \$ 9000
Garden/ocean view

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\$9000. or BO
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210932

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7&8/1408(\$18,000/Wk.);
8/1113 (\$17,000);
8/1409(\$17,000);
9/1218(\$15,000);
10/1207(\$15,000);
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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

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Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Ambulancia	911
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Avianca	588 0059
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Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES



March 28

Freedom

March 30

Crown Princess

Azamara Journey

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

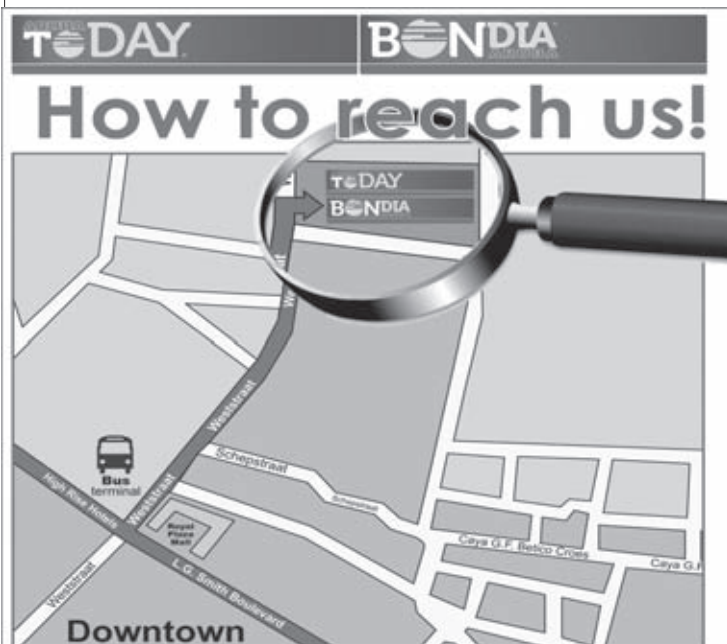
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Ancient West Bank site draws Christians, and controversy

By ILAN BEN ZION

SHILOH, WEST BANK (AP)

— Deep in the West Bank, Israeli settlers have transformed an archaeological site into a biblical tourist attraction that attracts tens of thousands of evangelical Christians each year. Tel Shiloh is believed to have been the site of the biblical tabernacle, but not everyone is pleased at how the ruins are presented to visitors.

Like many Holy Land sites, Tel Shiloh sits at the confluence of competing narratives of archaeology, religion, and nationalism. Critics say the site promotes a narrow interpretation of history popular with Israeli settlers and their Christian supporters.

The hilltop mound, 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Jerusalem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has been excavated by several archaeological missions, starting in 1922, and has yielded remains spanning over 3,700 years.

For centuries, Jews, Muslims, and Christians have associated the site with the home of the biblical tabernacle, the portable shrine where the Israelites housed the Ark of the Covenant. Because of its biblical significance, the archaeological ruins have become a pilgrimage site for evangelical Christians.

Last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Tel Shiloh with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and settler leaders, calling it Israel's "first capital."

Huckabee, a television host with a strong evangelical following, tweeted that "Shiloh is proof from 3000 yrs ago this land was home to @Israel site of ancient Tabernacle."



In this Tuesday, March 12, 2019 photo, tourists visit the archaeological site of Tel Shiloh in the West Bank. In this Tuesday, March 12, 2019 photo, tourists visit the archaeological site of Tel Shiloh in the West Bank.

Associated Press

In 2009, Tel Shiloh hosted 30,000 visitors, 60 percent of whom identified as evangelical Christians, according to the Israeli government. In 2012, the government allocated about \$4.2 million for a plan to preserve and upgrade the site, inaugurating a new visitors' center the following year. Since its completion, Tel Shiloh — rebranded as Ancient Shiloh: City of the Tabernacle — has seen tourism skyrocket to around 120,000 visitors in 2018, said site director Lilyan Zaitman. Over half were evangelical Christians.

Unlike other major sites in the West Bank, Tel Shiloh is managed by the local settler council and Mishkan Shiloh, a private nonprofit organization, rather than Israel's Nature and Parks Authority.

The site is inside the Jewish settlement of Shiloh, founded after Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 war. The tourist attraction is built

on private Palestinian land but Palestinians are barred from entering, according to a recent Amnesty International report.

The Palestinians have demanded the West Bank as part of their future state, and most of the international community views the settlements as illegal.

The Second Protocol of the Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property prohibits archaeological excavations in occupied territory "save where this is strictly required to safeguard, record or preserve cultural property." Israel is not one of the protocol's 82 signatories.

Zaitman said visitors should understand that "the roots of the Jewish people began here," calling it "the first capital city of the Jewish people before Jerusalem." Despite Tel Shiloh's long and varied history, the site drives home its Jewish relevance, with little attention paid to other periods or

peoples, whether Canaanite, Byzantine or Muslim. This has drawn criticism from archaeologists and activists. Emek Shaveh and Yesh Din, Israeli NGOs, charged in a 2017 report on Israeli archaeology in the West Bank that Ancient Shiloh aims to "reinforce the connection between the biblical Shiloh and the modern settlement, in a manner not necessarily based on the archaeological discoveries at the site."

The goal, they argue, is to "create a broad consensus about its importance as an indivisible part of the state of Israel."

Among the ruins are three Byzantine-era churches and two mosques. One of the two historical mosques is located outside the archaeological park, while the second is unmarked and undeveloped for visitors. A Byzantine church has been reconstructed and serves as a venue for events.

A new three-dimensional "hologram" presentation entertains viewers with a representation of the tabernacle and a description of the rituals performed there, based on the Bible.

A small museum inside the visitors' center makes scant mention of nearly 1,400 years of Muslim rule, and a film depicting the site's history deals exclusively with the biblical account.

The archaeological record, however, is more complicated.

Tel Aviv University archaeologist Israel Finkelstein led excavations at Tel Shiloh in the 1980s. He said there is evidence of continuous religious activity at the site for centuries leading up to the early Iron Age, the period associated with the emergence of the ancient Israelites.

"What exactly was the nature of the cult, whether there was a temple there, and also the exact location of this cult place at the site, is not very clear," Finkelstein said. As with any archaeological site, Finkelstein said "our responsibility is to give the facts, and then we can of course say that there is more than one way to interpret the finds."

No evidence of the tabernacle has been found, but archaeologists are looking. Excavations are being carried out by the Associates for Biblical Research, whose stated aim is "demonstrating the historical reliability of the Bible through archaeological and biblical research."

Scott Stripling, head of the current excavation, is one of a handful of evangelical archaeologists currently excavating in the West Bank. Evangelicals are the only non-Israeli teams involved in West Bank digs. □

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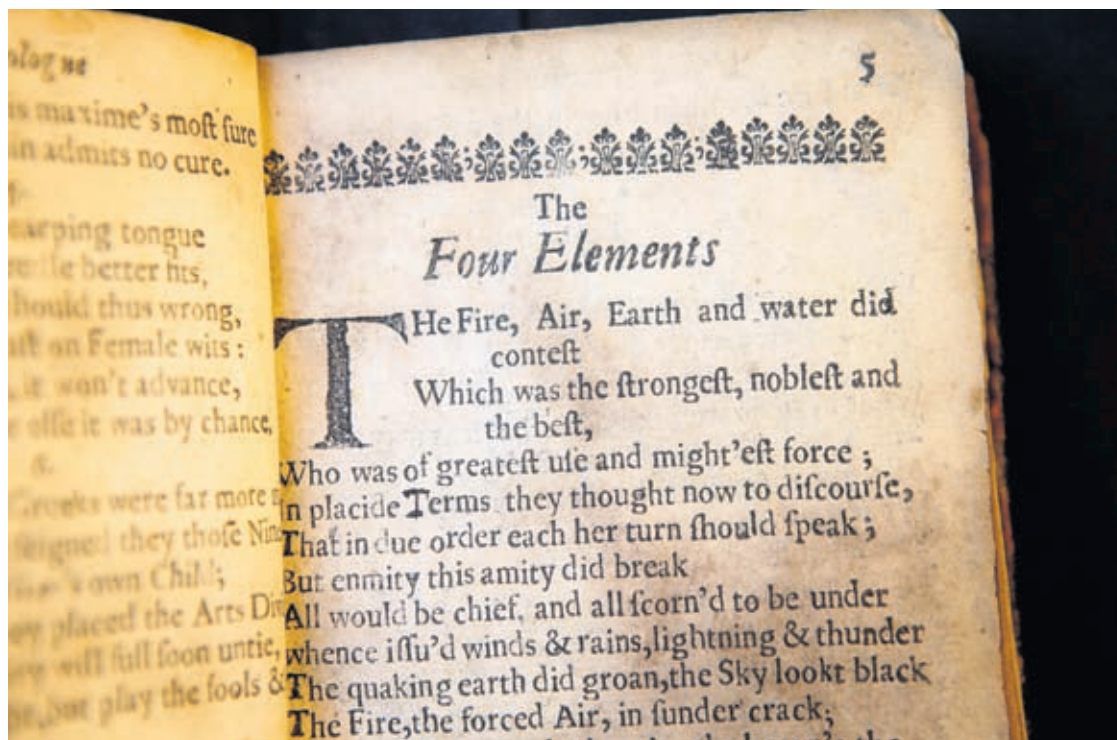
Search on for burial site of America's first published poet

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. (AP) — Anne Bradstreet was the North American continent's first published poet, yet her legacy has largely been lost to time.

Now, professors and students at Merrimack College in Massachusetts are trying to pinpoint her burial site while at the same time restoring her legacy and what they say is her rightful place in the pantheon of Western literature.

"Even though we don't know much about her, she was a household name in the 17th century, both here and in England," said Christy Pottroff, an assistant professor of English at Merrimack.

Bradstreet's 1650 book of poetry, "The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America," was a sensation both in the Colonies and in her native England, where people were fascinated by her accounts of everyday life in the New World. Pottroff and associate English professor Ellen McWhorter are leading several students in the project, dubbed Finding Anne Bradstreet. Bradstreet, who died in



In this Wednesday, March 20, 2019, photo provided by the Board of Trustees of Stevens Memorial Library, a handwritten manuscript called "Meditations Divine and Moral," by 17th century poet Anne Bradstreet, rests on a table at the Houghton Library on the campus of Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

1672, was from a prominent family. Her father, Thomas Dudley, served as governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She married Simon Bradstreet, who also served as governor.

Because of her family's prominence and support, she had access to educational opportunities many

Puritan women did not. Most of her writings were about domestic life in the Colonies, her role as a woman and mother of eight, and her devotion to her husband.

"I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold, Or all the riches that the East doth hold," she wrote in a piece

titled, "To My Dear and Loving Husband." She also wrote about the horror of watching the family's home go up in flames. "Then, coming out, behold a space, The flame consume my dwelling place," she wrote in "Verses upon the Burning of Our House, July 10th, 1666."

It was all written through the lens of her Puritan faith. "She thought poetry was a vehicle for glorifying God," McWhorter said.

Bradstreet did not set out to become a published poet. Her writings were at first shared with family.

But her brother-in-law took her manuscripts to London, where they were published. There is a school of thought that he did so without her knowledge, but it is more likely she did know he intended to have them published, Pottroff said.

Although the project began just last year, McWhorter's fascination with Bradstreet dates to 2009 when she was interviewing for a job at Merrimack and learned the poet was buried somewhere on campus. It turns out that's not true. But scholars think she was buried not too far away in what is now North Andover, which in the 17th century was still part of Andover.

Even though there's a marker for Bradstreet in an old burial ground in town, it was put up about two decades ago and is not her gravesite. □

LOCASH offer a bro-country hoot of an album

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

LOCASH, "Brothers" (Wheelhouse Records/BBR Music Group)

If there's a such a thing as Bingo for country song references, go ahead and spin the latest LOCASH album and brace yourself. You'll get a whole lot of trucks, beer, jeans, dogs, back roads, mom's cooking, God and weekend parties. And that's just the first few tunes.

The vocalist duo of Chris Lucas and Preston Brust may seem comfortable around lyrical cliches but thank goodness they know a good tune, too, because "Brothers" is a bro-country hoot, filled with catchy, poppy tunes that fizz like a just-opened Bud. In fact, two are ready-made for brewski commercials —

"Cold Beer Kinda Night" and "Beers to Catch Up On."

What's really refreshing is that it's clear everyone's invited. Right out of the gate is "One Big Country Song," which opens its arms wide, something some country songs don't. "A city boy, a country boy, yeah we all just tryna survive," the lyrics go. "Everybody's got holes in their blue jeans/If you bought 'em that way or not." This is welcome-all party country, not afraid to add dashes of rock, dance, pop or some guitar solos.

The bulk of the 11-track "Brothers" is produced by Lindsay Rimes, who has worked with such artists as Kane Brown, Thomas Rhett and Dylan Scott. The songwriters include Rhett Akins, Dallas Davidson, Ashley Gorley, Jesse Frasure, Corey

Crowder, Jordan Schmidt and Chris DeStefano. Lucas and Brust contribute songwriting to three songs — the really nice title track, the throwaway "Feels Like a Party" and the first-class rocker "Secret Weapon." A sunny, optimistic tone runs through the album, reaching a high with "Summer in a Truck," an infectious ode to curly fries and wearing no shoes. You can try and hate on it but that's like hating on a Lab puppy.

The duo get religious in "God Thing" — but always grateful and in awe; they're not the hellfire kind — and are heartfelt in the album's outstanding power ballad "Kissing a Girl," a superb bit of song-crafting that traces a romance from a "couple kids playing grown-ups" to being a daddy.

It's a deeply moving tune



This cover image released by Wheelhouse Records shows "Brothers," a release by Locash.

Associated Press

but LOCASH don't dwell on it. The album closes where it began — with friends,

alcohol and an embrace of good will on "Beers to Catch up On." □

'Dumbo' remake takes flight on its own charms

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The original "Dumbo" was released in the summer of 1941 while Germany was spreading across Europe and war was breaking out in the Pacific. Crafted as a simpler Disney fable after the more extravagant "Fantasia" disappointed at the box office, "Dumbo" — only 64 minutes in length — took flight just as far more chilling creations were taking

to the air. Almost eight decades later, "Dumbo" is alight again in Tim Burton's somber and sincere live-action remake of the animated classic. Burton has refashioned "Dumbo" as a sepia-toned show-business parable tailored to more animal rights-sensitive times. "Dumbo" is the latest in a circus parade of Disney remakes ("The Lion King" and "Aladdin" are due out later



This image released by Disney shows Colin Farrell, Nico Parker and Finley Hobbins in a scene from "Dumbo."

Associated Press

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DUMBO

SPANISH

MON-THU 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30
FRI 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30 | 10:55
SAT 1:15 | 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30 | 10:55
SUN 1:15 | 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30

CXC

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00

JORGE PABÓN | FAUSTO MATA

LOS DOMIRRUENOS 2

SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

LUPITA NYONG'O | WINSTON DUKE

Us

MON-THU 5:20 | 7:50
FRI 5:20 | 7:50 | 10:20
SAT 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:50 | 10:20
SUN 2:50 | 5:20 | 7:50

MON-FRI 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

BRIE LARSON | SAMUEL L. JACKSON

CAPTAIN MARVEL

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 4:45 | 7:25
FRI 4:45 | 7:25 | 10:10
SAT 2:05 | 4:45 | 7:25 | 10:10
SUN 2:05 | 4:45 | 7:25

MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:15
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:15

BRIANNA DENSKI | JENNIFER GARNER

WONDER PARK

MON-THU 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35
FRI-SAT 1:50 | 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS

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this year) that brings classic characters into seemingly more real worlds with the aid of digital wizardry. None of them will overwhelm anyone by their necessity. Movies, after all, aren't smart phones that require software updates. That said, Burton's "Dumbo," while inevitably lacking much of the magic of the original, has charms and melancholies of its own, starting, naturally, with the elephant in the room. Of all the CGI make-overs, this Dumbo is the most textured, sweetest and most soulful of creatures. Like the original, he doesn't speak and trips over his floppy ears. Whether cowering at a new height or finding astonishment as he, with a sneeze, is sent airborne, the digitally rendered Dumbo is one precious pachyderm. The film opens in 1919 on the heels of World War I. Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell, who has grown into the most sensitive and consistent of leading men) returns from war, minus an arm, to his two children, Milly (Nico Parker) and Joe (Finley Hobbins). Though Dumbo endures separation from his mother in Burton's film, the deeper grief in "Dumbo" has been transferred to the humans: The children's mother died while Holt was away at war from an influenza that, as one character says, "hit like

a hurricane." Other things have changed, too. The traveling circus where the Farriers make their home has fallen on hard times. Settling down in Joplin, Missouri, the camp is half its former size. Its owner, Max Medici (Danny DeVito, spectacular), has sold off the horses that Holt rode in his act. Medici sinks all his remaining money into an elephant that he hopes will revive the circus, only to feel swindled when she produces such a droopy-eared offspring, discovered at birth beneath a heap of hay. Of course, Dumbo's stock rises once he does, too, and Medici's suddenly sensational circus quickly attracts the interest of a much more big-league circus impresario, V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton, in a devilishly slick performance), who brings Medici's whole circus to his Coney Island kingdom as a means, we immediately grasp, of luring Dumbo away and dispensing, like a vulture capitalist, with the rest. It's a kind of reunion for Burton, Keaton and DeVito, who 27 years ago came together in "Batman Returns." The film, starring a bird that couldn't fly in DeVito's Penguin, was like a wicked version of "Dumbo," and similarly full of misfits and so-called freaks. "Dumbo" is naturally lighter terrain for Burton but for the first time

in years, the director — so long an expert at the proximity of fantasy and horror — seems at home. And he steers "Dumbo," from a script by Ehren Kruger, toward a grand corporate satire as the big-city conglomerate tries to co-opt the genuine wonder of Dumbo and Medici's traveling band. Greed and exploitation close in on them as the big-tent gets bigger. That such a story line should come in the biggest big-tent of them all, Disney (whose Disneyland isn't so dissimilar to Vandevere's Dreamland) is either an awkward or happy irony, depending on your level of cynicism. But it is wondrous when Dumbo takes flight. Burton's camera feels genuinely mesmerized at his elephant's magic act. The filmmaker's recent films have been well outside his best work; it was his woe-ful "Alice in Wonderland" that kick-started much of the Disney live-action remakes. But when Dumbo soars, it's clear that Burton is a believer, still, in the ability of a beautiful oddity to transcend. "Dumbo," a Walt Disney Co. release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for peril/action, some thematic elements, and brief mild language. Running time: 112 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

Julia Louis-Dreyfus reveals last season story line of 'Veep'

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Julia Louis-Dreyfus still had tears to shed as she said her official farewell to "Veep." The only problem is she forgot to bring tissues.

Shooting wrapped for the series in December, but those tearful goodbyes were not enough as she and the cast of the HBO comedy series walked the red carpet for the last time Tuesday.

"No. I suspect there will be more tears this evening. Oh, god. I hope not too many. I didn't bring any Kleenex," Louis-Dreyfus said.

The multiple Emmy Award-winner, who plays politician Selina Meyer, shared what fans can expect from her character in the political comedy's seventh and last season.

"Selina Meyer is going to try to make a run for the presidency, yet again. She's been veep. She's been the president. She wants to be the president again. But it's extreme this season. We definitely push the edge of the envelope, and it's going to get pretty raucous," Louis-Dreyfus said.

The final season of "Veep" premieres Sunday night on HBO.

After the show's sixth sea-



Actress and executive producer Julia Louis-Dreyfus attends the premiere of the final season of HBO's "Veep" at Alice Tully Hall on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

son, Louis-Dreyfus announced that she had breast cancer. After a successful round of chemotherapy, she returned to the show.

"It was an absolute god-send to come back to the show, and to be able to focus on making really funny stuff with my dear dearest friends. It was all joy, all the

time," Louis-Dreyfus said. Showrunner David Mandel called Louis-Dreyfus a fighter, so he had a strong feeling she would return. But it wasn't until the first day of

shooting that he realized everything was back to normal.

"There was that magical moment on our first day on the set. She sort of took a moment and said a couple of things to the cast and crew and we kind of dug into the scene, and the first curse word kind of came flying out of her mouth, and it was like, 'We're back!'" Mandel said.

When the series premiered in 2012, the political landscape was far tamer than it is today, and while the funniest moments centered around true accounts, the storylines were usually not stranger than the reality.

Actors Matt Walsh and Timothy Simons joked about what an episode of "Veep" would be like if something like special counsel Robert Mueller's report was about to be released.

"Can I describe an episode, what that would be like? Selina would try to burn it," Walsh said. "She'd probably disappear and get a face-lift to create a distraction." Simons felt the writers and actors would get a lot of mileage out of the Mueller report.

"I feel that we would probably get a full episode of just people sprinting across Washington to prevent its

Novelist explores the secular and religious divide

By ANN LEVIN

Associated Press

"kaddish.com" (Alfred A. Knopf), by Nathan Englander:

It's 1999, and Larry, a lapsed Jew from Brooklyn, is at his sister Dina's house in Memphis for their father's funeral. Since he won't commit to reciting the Jewish prayer for the dead every day for 11 months, as required by Jewish law, she agrees to let him go online and pay a proxy to do it. Think Jewish TaskRabbit.

Fast forward 20 years and Larry, now known as Shuli, has returned to the faith, with a vengeance. He's married, with two children, teaching at the yeshiva in Brooklyn he attended, and

barely scraping by.

When a chance encounter with a troubled youth triggers an epic attack of guilt for his long-ago rebellion, Shuli goes off on a quixotic mission to find the proxy he once hired on kaddish.com and reclaim the right to properly mourn his father. Meshuggeh? Yes, and also the premise of Nathan Englander's latest novel, a marvelous comic fable that juxtaposes the two Larrys and implicitly asks: Which one is crazier?

There's Larry No. 1, who smoked pot, practiced Zen meditation, and was addicted to porn. The chapters narrated in that voice are laugh-out-loud funny, reminiscent of "Portnoy's

Complaint."

"Honestly," he thinks, "what does it hurt their dead father . if Larry says a prayer or not. Does anyone really think God sits up there with a scorecard, checking off every one of Larry's blessings?"

But, of course, Dina does. Then there's Larry No. 2, or Shuli, whose desire to atone for his past is so extreme that he's willing to abandon his family, move to Jerusalem, and sleep in a park to make things right with his deceased dad.

Englander's expansive imagination is such that he can convincingly write the part of a secular Jewish hipster and a born-again Jew - and do it with the Yid-

dish inflections of a Borscht Belt comedian.

Both lifestyles, he suggests, leave something to be desired, both those who live large parts of their lives on the internet, and those who are "back and forth to Israel . as if one could take the Lincoln Tunnel and find Jerusalem on the other side." While Larry/Shuli can be exasperating and Dina doctrinaire, their father is a gem. Even on his death bed, this deeply devout man has compassion for his wayward, searching son.

"This period in your life - it feels like it's forever, but if you're lucky, life is long and each of these forevers will one day seem fleeting." If only his children were so



This cover image released by Alfred A. Knopf shows "kaddish.com," a novel by Nathan Englander.

Associated Press

wise. But if they were, we wouldn't have this delight of a novel. □

Frog symphony and ancient trees in a verdant Louisiana swamp

By BETH J. HARPAZ

MARRERO, La. (AP) — It was 93 degrees and humid when I set out on a 4-mile stroll through a Louisiana swamp.

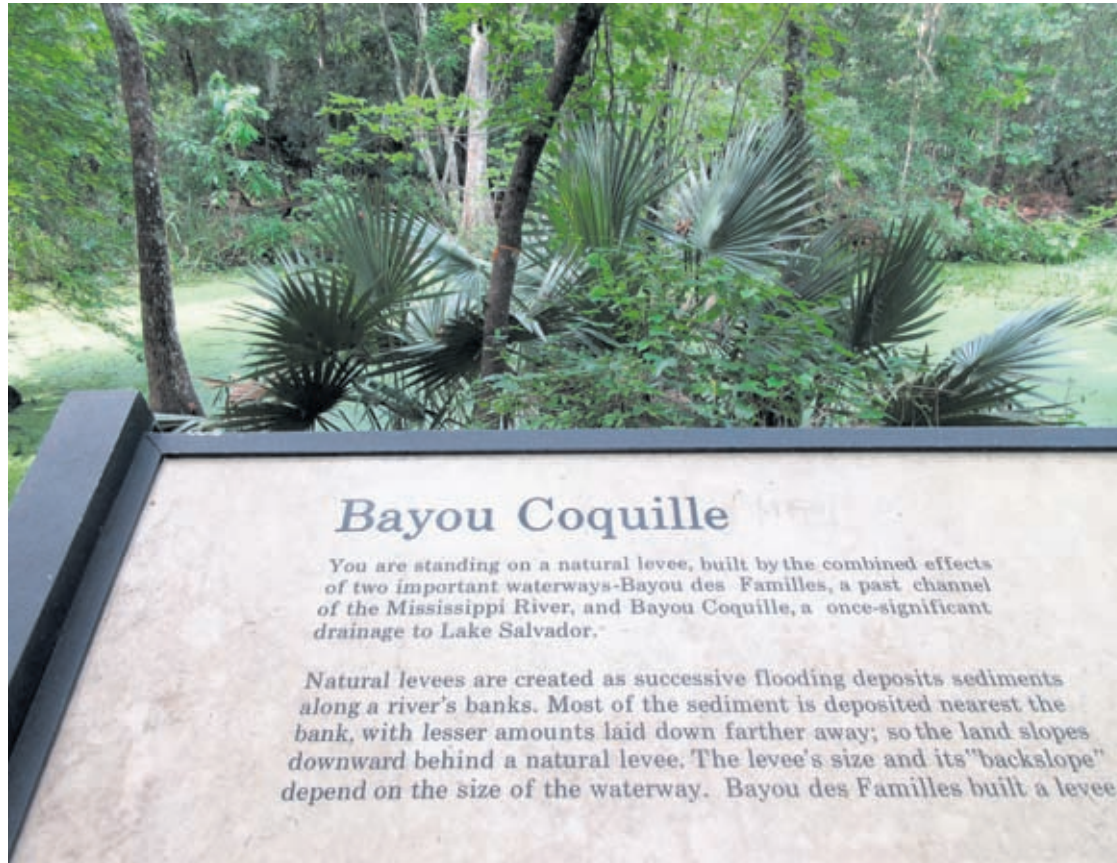
Crazy, you say? But let me tell you what I found there, in the Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

A symphony of frogs. A 700-year-old tree. And a verdant landscape of dripping moss and neon green that seemed to melt with the heat into the woods and wetlands.

Fan-shaped palmettos waved hello along the trails. Strange formations of cypress trees known as knees pushed up through the swampland. Moss cascaded from branches overhead. I half-expected to spot a mythical creature like the rougarou — half-wolf, half-man in Cajun folklore — lurking in the forest. But no werewolves or fairies crossed my path, though I was startled by the creepy sight of a couple of alligators floating motionless and half-submerged in dark waters.

I was also enchanted by the continuous soundscape of creatures bay-ing, chirping and croaking, from bronze frogs that sound like bicycle horns to narrowmouth toads that sound like sheep.

That night, back in my air-conditioned hotel room a half-hour drive from the park in New Orleans, I tweeted out a few seconds of a video I'd taken



This June 3, 2018 photo shows sign marking Bayou Coquille on trail in the Barataria Preserve, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Marrero, Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans.

Associated Press

on my cellphone, showing the wet, green world I'd encountered, along with its natural soundtrack. A short time later, the park's official Twitter feed, @JeanLafitteNPS, retweeted it with this message: "That's the way to stand up to a south Louisiana summer — pack a bottle of water & stroll thru the swamp."

I had to find out who was behind this empowering never-mind-the-weather message, and a couple of phone calls led me to Kristy Wallisch, a park ranger who handles Jean Lafitte's public information.

"Traditionally summer is our

low season because it's very hot," Wallisch said. But while locals head to Gulf Coast beaches this time of year to escape the heat and humidity, the park does get out-of-towners — like me. "Kids are out of school, people are traveling, and they're saying, 'OK, it's going to be hot and humid, but we're also going to see and hear amazing things we're never going to see and hear anywhere else,'" she said, adding: "You'll forget the heat and humidity three days later. But you'll always remember what a wonderful time you had."

The Barataria Preserve is one of six distinct sites that make up Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. The other sites include a visitor center in New Orleans' famous French Quarter and the Chalmette Battlefield, where the Battle of New Orleans was fought in 1815. It was the final great battle of the War of 1812, in which Andrew Jackson led the Americans to a David-versus-Goliath triumph over British forces.

Jackson owed his victory in part to the man for whom the park is named: Jean Lafitte. Lafitte was a privateer — OK, let's just call

him a pirate — who supplied Jackson with soldiers, guns and more. Had Lafitte shown up at the docks in New Orleans with his contraband, he would have had to pay taxes on it. Instead, he used the waterways as back roads. Some of his operations were based where the Barataria Preserve is now.

My visit included a walk on the Palmetto Trail and the Bayou Coquille Trail. Coquille is the French word for shell, named for an enormous mound of shells discarded by Native Americans who once inhabited the area. A sign marks that

spot today.

Another sign showcases the "Monarch of the Swamp," a massive old-growth bald cypress tree estimated to be 700 years old. These trees were prized in the South because they were resistant to termites, so many of them were cut down.

"We always wonder why that one survived," Wallisch said of the Monarch, adding that the joke goes that loggers must have encountered it on a Friday afternoon when they were ready to knock off work and said, "We're not starting on that tree today!"

Hikers might also see lizards and snakes — but if you do, don't panic: "For the most part, they are not interested in us at all. They just want to go about their snaky business," Wallisch said. And if you see a white-tailed deer, you might notice that it appears smaller than deer in other regions but with bigger feet. "They adapted," Wallisch said. "They evolved with those feet because it's easier to walk on wet ground."

The preserve is a great spot for birding too, especially in fall and spring as millions of birds head south to Central or South America for the winter, then return.

For tourists taking a side trip to the park from New Orleans, it's interesting to consider that the preserve "is pretty much what New Orleans looked like" when European settlers arrived 300 years ago. □



This June 3, 2018 photo shows a verdant landscape in the Barataria Preserve, part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Marrero, Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans.

Associated Press



This June 3, 2018 photo shows a walkway in the Barataria Preserve, part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Marrero, Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans.

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